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ALFONSIN DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH MEXICO

FL130146 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1750 GMT 12 Mar 85

[By NOTIMEX correspondent Jazmin Ross]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin has said relations with Mexico are very good and that he and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid had similar views on the world's great problems. The Argentine president granted an exclusive interview to NOTIMEX 14 days before he begins his state visit to Mexico.

Dr Raul Alfonsin stressed his objective of revitalizing the 11 agreements Argentina has signed with Mexico on commercial, cultural, and technological exchanges. He rejected the idea that U.S. President Ronald Reagan would set up a mini-Marshall Plan for Latin America. He said: We are going to propose that it is essential to avoid social outbreaks through the application of policy [words indistinct] which affect the security of the continent. He said the debt is an acute political problem, linked to the security of the continent.

Asked about a good offices effort by his country to revitalize relations between Nicaragua and the United States, President Alfonsin said: We are wholeheartedly supporting the efforts being made by the Contadora Group. We intend to continue affirming its fundamental principles.

Alfonsin said he would express to President Ronald Reagan the need to respect the principle of nonintervention and self-determination of the peoples of Central America. Nevertheless, he specified that Argentina would not immediately call for renewal of dialogue between Nicaragua and the United States.

He recalled the two meetings he has already had with President Miguel de la Madrid in Buenos Aires last March and in New Delhi in January. He explained that in the two rounds of talks he will hold with President De la Madrid, they will discuss the problems of peace, disarmament, justice, the need to increase Latin America's foreign trade, the need to improve our bilateral relations, which, he said, are very good, but which could become even better in economic matters.

Alfonsin analyzed the joint policies undertaken by Mexico and Argentina to create a Latin American debtors group. On this point, he expressed thanks for Mexico's financial support when Argentina had to meet an urgent interest payment that was due on its debt. He said the Cartagena group's work is very important. The principle of that work, which is said guides him, is the need to harmonize our financial policies and to try to get the countries with centralized economic to understand that this is a basic political problem.

Raul Alfonsin said Argentina, in dealing with foreign debt problems, is in absolute agreement with Mexico and he believes it is necessary to continue struggling, not only to get other nations to consider the political nature of the debt, but also to warn them that it is impossible to pay interest rates like the ones we are paying or to accept formulas that can lead to serious social conflicts.

President Alfonsin also referred to Mexico and Argentina's joint policy of calling for nuclear disarmament, characterizing it as an ethical struggle. We are not engaging in the struggle as third parties, but as protagonists, because we believe that in a nuclear conflagration, everyone is in the balance. So we are defending our own right to life.

The interview with the president took place at Government House shortly before he bade farewell to Italian President Sandro Pertini, who interrupted his visit to Argentina to attend the funeral of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

The Argentine president admitted the possibility of ratifying the Tlaltelolco Treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in Latin America if some points of the treaty are modified, especially the safeguards. One of the main objectives of Argentine foreign policy is to eradicate the possibility of military nuclear presence in our continent and we believe it is necessary to end the proliferation of weapons. We are willing to advance in this area in order to provide safeguards and guarantees to the Latin American countries without having to resort to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which we consider discriminatory, and the Tlaltelolco Treaty. [passage indistinct] We believe that with some modifications the treaty [not further specified] could be compatible with the interests and requirements of the Latin American countries.

President Raul Alfonsin categorically denied that Argentina is not complying with the guidelines of the IMF adjustment program. So far, we have complied with the guidelines, stated the president, and he denied that in the IMF agreement, it had been established that Argentina should reduce its inflation rate to 300 percent by the end of 1985.

Finally, he said the purge being carried out in the high command of the Argentine Army falls within the process of military reorganization. All the charges are linked to organzation problems in the Armed Forces.

Discusses Upcoming Trip

PY141337 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Mar (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin this afternoon announced that he will propose a Latin American summit to adopt measures designed to protect the continent from nuclear proliferation, to seek solutions to regional financial problems, and to undertake joint action against the drug trade. Alfonsin said contacts have already been made for a Latin American "summit" that would be held at the end of this year or during the first quarter of 1986, probably in Buenos Aires. He made it clear, however, that "of course we do not intend to host" the meeting. Alfonsin made this announcement at a press conference he held this afternoon at the Olivos residence to discuss subjects related to the tour of Brazil, the United States, and Mexico he will start tomorrow.

Alfonsin confirmed that during his talks with President Ronald Reagan he will outline his position on the Central American situation. He noted in this regard that he will emphasize the need for the United States and Nicaragua to resume the Manzanillo talks. He added that "as usual," Argentina will reaffirm its rights over the Malvinas Islands and that in the economic sector efforts will be made to increase private capital investments in Argentina, especially in the oil industry.

Alfonsin first outlined the objectives of his tour and, referring to his visit to Brazil, said: "We will not only seek to strengthen our bilateral relations but also to discuss those problems that are common to all Latin American countries."

Regarding his visit to the United States, Alfonsin said that besides his talks with Reagan, he is especially interested in the speech he will deliver before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, "because I will outline there some problems and the attitude of the government and people of Argentina." He said that in New York he will contact economic officials "in order to seek a larger share of the U.S. market and to secure investments which could yield mutual benefits in various areas." In this regard, Alfonsin said: "Of particular importance will be the meetings we will hold with oil businessmen in Houston about the possibility of investments in the area of hydrocarbons in order to expedite oil exportation in Argentina through the support of private investments."

Commenting on his visit to Mexico, Alfonsin said: "It will represent a confirmation of our similar views on common problems, as were already established in our earlier contacts with President De la Madrid," and will also be instrumental "in strengthening our bilateral relations."

Asked whether he will offer his "good offices" with Reagan on the Nicaraguan situation, Alfonsin said: "Not only we but the U.S. President himself will be interested in considering the Central American issue." He reaffirmed that in these talks Argentina "will reaffirm its support of the task of the Contadora Group and the need to make an effort to resume the Manzanillo talks."

He also conceded that he will talk with Reagan about the disarmament issue in accordance with the mandate he has received from the presidents of the Group Six who attended the New Delhi "summit." "I will of course also bring up this issue during my talks with the U.S. President," Alfonsin said.

Alfonsin added that during this trip he will attempt to raise the consciousness of U.S. officials on the need to look at the enormous Latin American debt from a political standpoint. He said: "We believe that once and for all it must be understood that Argentina's and Latin America's foreign debt is not just a financial-economic problem but that it must be viewed as a political problem." He then deplored the fact that thus far there have been no "signals" from the developed countries on the need to place the debt within a political context.

Regarding the Malvinas Islands, Alfonsin said: "We will state our usual position; that is, we will reaffirm our rights and we will warn of the danger not only for Argentina but for the entire continent on the fortification of those islands, which are just a few miles from our shores."

Alfonsin said that he "would be satisfied" to have the peace and friendship treaty with Chile ratified before his departure, but he made it clear that "the Argentine position has been made perfectly clear to the entire world."

He conceded that he will discuss the nuclear issue with Reagan and, in this context, the presssures Argentina has been receiving to sign the Tlaltelolco Treaty. "I have no doubt that the issue will be discussed because every delegation of U.S. lawmakers that has come to Argentina has raised the issue. This is a subject of true concern for the American people," he said. Alfonsin added: "Since we are making efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, they will obviously attempt to raise the issue to make it look as though we are falling into some type of contradictions." He said: "The Argentine position is very simple: The objective of our foreign policy is to prevent the stockpiling of nuclear weapons in Latin America." He added that "we could set up our own system of safeguards" and noted that the "problem with Tlaltelolco is that it ultimately relates to the Nonproliferation Treaty, and there we are dealing with a type of discrimination that I find negative." Alfonsin added that "Argentina is prepared to go even further through a meeting that could be held among heads of state to set up a system that would ultimately function like Tlaltelolco but would entail the establishment of safeguards and guarantees falling under our own responsibility."

Alfonsin then said that Argentina proposed the holding of a meeting of Latin American presidents to discuss not only the nuclear issue but also the financial problems of all countries of the region and the need to undertake joint action against the drug trade. He then said that he would like the meeting to be at the presidential level and added that the summit would take place at the end of this year or during the first quarter of 1986. He noted that, to this end, Foreign Minister Caputo has already initiated contacts with other countries.

Lauds Beagle Vote

PY141411 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1250 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar (TELAM) -- Before departing for Brazil, the United States, and Mexico, President Raul Alfonsin expressed his pleasure over the approval [by the Senate] of the peace and friendship treaty with Chile, saying that nothing is easy but anything can be resolved, and advances can be made. He also said that it was a vote for peace, for the integration of Latin America, for disarmament, and for many other things. After stating that whether he signed the treaty before or after his trip was not very important "because everyone knows our position," he repeated that without a doubt it made him very happy. He also indicated that he hopes to receive the approval of the treaty before he leaves for the United States.

ALFONSIN DEPARTS FOR NEVES INAUGURATION

PY141238 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1135 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin departed at 0813 for Brasilia, where tomorrow he will participate in the inaugural ceremonies for President-elect Tancredo Neves. In the military sector of Jorge Newbery Airport 30 minutes before departing, Alfonsin delegated the presidency to Vice President Victor Martinez.

IGLESIAS ROUCO COMMENTARY ON MILITARY CHANGES

PY130220 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 March 85 pp 1, 7

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco: "Red Cards"]

[Text] The government's decision to put Brigadier Generals Waldner and Crespo, both ultranationalists, in charge of the joint staff and the Air Force, respectively, will have marked effects not only on the specific military field, but also on the strategic field, and therefore also on Argentina's foreign policy. To be more precise: The decision reflects the extent of the lack of understanding between the government and most military institutions, and also the course which the government intends to set -- perhaps not explicitly, but in fact -- for Argentina's geopolitical alignment. Here we must point out that what is taking place is not a turn to the ultraright, as some people claim, but toward foreign ultraconflict, that is, the worsening of the existing South Atlantic conflict.

In fact, Waldner, who from now on will have direct and perhaps decisive influence on the drawing up of the so-called conflict hypotheses (and therefore in the reorganization of the Armed Forces and the allocation of budgetary resources) is, together with Crespo and the Air Force "hawks," a spokesman for the military sectors which are less flexible, that is, less willing to negotiate, toward the Malvinas problem, and both Waldner and Crespo are believed to uphold an openly anti-British and even anti-U.S. position. This position is shared by the leftist factions of Alfonsinism and the rest of the leftist spectrum, including the Intransigent Party and the Communist Party, hardly a surprising coincidence if we take into account the things which in this regard, as well as others, are common to both Marxism and fascism, be the latter of populist or elitist extraction. Waldner and Crespo belong to the elitist faction. To prove the above, all we have to do is recall the extremist and fascist roots of Velasco Alvarado's leftist regime.

In light of the official "solution" to the military crisis, the following facts, among others, have become absolutely clear:

1. The staunch support which the Air Force extended to the government during the latter's latest conflict with the Army, the Navy, and the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, support which according to certain rumors had reached the point of placing several of its units on alert so as to thwart from the air any attempted uprising of Army or Navy.

2. The attitude of Brigadier General Agosti and Brigadier General Lami Dozo [Air Force commanders] (who followed instructions from their comrades) toward the "dirty war," different from that of the commanders and former commanders of the other two branches, and the tacit acceptance which the government and its media has been evidencing for some time toward the Air Force thesis that its members had no direct responsibility in the tragic affair of the missing persons.

3. The decision which the Defense Ministry has allegedly already made to change the guidelines for the military "reorganization" left by General Fernandez Torres, and to implement a plan which would fulfill most of the aspirations which Brigadier General Simari (and Waldner) expressed last year, including reducing as much as possible the paratroopers of the Army and the naval aviation (despite the fact that a considerable sector of the Navy shares the Air Force "hawks" inflexibility toward the Malvinas), and allowing certain aeronautic industries to remain in the hands of retired Air Force generals and to operate with relative autonomy, that is, without too much "interference" from Defense Ministry civilians, a fate unlike that of Military Industries, the State Shipyards and Naval Factories, and other corporations.

4. The swiftness with which the Air Force last year sent two of its higher-ranking officers to the Armed Forces Supreme Council, in the wake of a mass resignation of the members of this body, swiftness which will be displayed again in the near future if, as is expected, there is a new crisis (although this time the Air Force members of the council may not resign).

5. The concern with which political and military circles connected with the United States and the NATO have reportedly received the new military appointments, which in the opinion of these circles forebodes renewed tensions over the Malvinas, and the worries which the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense conveyed in Buenos Aires regarding Argentina's policy toward Central America and Mr Alfonsin's upcoming trip to Washington. Mr Sanchez yesterday reiterated that President Alfonsin's active opposition, in the course of his meeting with Reagan, to Washington's offensive against Nicaragua will scuttle Alfonsin's negotiations in the United States and definitely open a chasm between the White House and the Government House. Furthermore, the prevailing viewpoint abroad is that the fact that the new joint staff chief and the leftist group have similar positions toward the Malvinas will not allow the tensions over the southern conflict to be overcome through bilateral British-Argentine talks as Washington would like. It is also feared that the isolationist, and at the same time expansionist ideas of the now politically influential branch of the Armed Forces, the Air Force, will further fuel the aspirations which Alfonsinism has of attaining leadership status in Latin America, thus splitting the OAS, as the Argentine left wants, and strengthening, instead of curtailing, Argentine support for the Sandinists. Finally, these circles believe that the ultranationalism of the military establishment, shared by the left, will now be encouraged by the joint staff, thus considerably increasing the possibilities of the current Argentine constitutional government becoming an authoritarian regime of the left or of the "national left."

6. The influence which left-wing government factions, such as those represented by Grinspun and Ms Kelly, continue exerting on government mechanisms and decisions, an influence which is obviously the reason for the general direction which the government has taken to resolve the military crisis. Grinspun's actions within the Argentine Central Bank are well known and Ms Kelly has made her influence felt as well. For example: It seems to be the former foreign relations secretary's will that the government must reject, as it has allegedly agreed to do, a project for Argentine Airlines to fly between Tel Aviv and Buenos Aires (while Aeroflot, whose request to establish a "base" in Buenos Aires was opposed by Argentine Airlines in 1982, continues depriving the national airline of passengers and freight to East European countries). Here is another example: The ultrafaction of the Radical Civic Union Coordinating Board and the left-wing parties is gaining support within the government for the establishment of a PLO office in Buenos Aires. These left-wing factions also appear to be behind the campaign of rumors which yesterday was launched concerning an alleged "discreet" removal of the Saudi Arabian ambassador, whom Mr Jaroslavsky recently charged with lobbying in favor of Great Britain in connection with the Beagle treaty. As everyone knows, Mr Caputo met a few days ago (together with Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas) with eight Arab ambassadors, the Saudi included, and assured them all that the Foreign Ministry considered these charges groundless. Caputo also indicated that the sources of the charges would be investigated and the matter clarified. However, no clarification had been made by yesterday, and in the meantime the Foreign Ministry "leaked" information that it had contacted its Saudi counterpart and arranged a "discreet" withdrawal of the Saudi ambassador, a contact which, as far as we know, took place only in the imagination of the sourse of the "leak." According to our sources, Mr Jorge Sabato will meet with the Saudi ambassador on 11 March and we shall see what will come out of all this. Nevertheless all these "details," to call them something, reveal that the left continues working not only against the resumption of dialogue between Argentina and the United States, but also for the cooling of relations with countries that, like Israel and Saudi Arabia, are U.S. allies in the Middle East despite their own mutual confrontation in that region.

Thus, it would seem that the concern shown abroad toward the government's new military, economic, and foreign relations initiatives appears to be reasonable. The fact is that there are more signs. It has been said, for example, that Grinspun's appointment as planning secretary has been ruled out. Not so. The truth is that the signing of the decree appointing him has merely been postponed until Alfonsin's return from the United States. According to our sources, Mr German Lopez is advocating Grinspun's return to the economic team. If this happens it will prompt the resignation of two or three of Mr Sourrouille's main assistants. Here is another symptom, even more alarming in the eyes of the United States: A few days ago Mr Caputo denied that he was the author of a government paper read at a Radical Civic Union Youth congress in which Washington's policy in Central America was harshly criticized and Sandinist "democracy" was passionately defended. However, it is known that this document was drafted by Alconada Sempe (who has been nicknamed "Panda Bear" at the Foreign Ministry) and Mr O'Connell, both very close to Caputo.

Will Mr Alfonsin read this paper during the 30- or 40-minute meeting (actually only 20 or 25 minutes after deducting time for translation) which he will hold with Reagan in a few days? If that is the case, we can start getting ready. According to Tancredo Neves' friends, not even the Brazilian president left the Oval Office very satisfied despite his well-known prudence and the "Atlanticism" which Brasilia practices toward issues to which the White House is "sensitive." According to the Brazilians, Reagan does not usually answer "spontaneously" at this kind of meeting but merely reads from cards which he and his advisers prepare in advance as answers which the U.S. President is willing to give to his interlocutors. Thus, under these circumstances there is little room for flowery discourse or untimely comment. There is, of course, room for red cards [a term used in soccer parlance to indicate drastic action, usually the expulsion of a player].

If to the possibility of getting such cards we add the veritable convulsions among the military now taking place these days and which have little or nothing to do with the fate of admirals or generals (or, for that matter, with the "hypotheses of conflict" or ideologies), there is hardly any room for optimism. From what we know, a few hours ago the courts ordered the arrest of Major Pla for his performance during the "dirty war." His comrades at various garrisons reportedly staged several meetings yesterday and agreed to oppose the arrest warrant. In sum, the "Astiz affairs" are beginning to sprout all over the place. Does the government believe that it will be able to assuage these upheavals with mere speeches or by changing generals?

DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF SWORN IN AT CEREMONIES

Army Deputy Takes Over

PY142219 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1345 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar (NA) -- Brigadier General Mario Jaime Sanchez who this morning took over as deputy chief of staff of the Army, said that "dedication and humility" exercised by Army personnel "is the only way to contribute to a resolution of national problems, and those of the branch." He stressed: "I am fully in agreement with the objectives which the chief of staff set for his administration in the speech he made when assuming his post."

Sanchez, who was sworn in by the Army chief of staff, General Hector Rios Erenu, at a ceremony held at the parade ground of the Libertador Building, stressed the need to "carry out as soon as possible the reorganization of the Army" so as to "increase its operational and professional capabilities."

Navy Deputy Sworn In

PY142215 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1657 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar (TELAM) -- The outgoing deputy chief of staff of the Navy, Real Admiral Raul Marino, stated that the branch is as interested in strengthening democracy as it is committed to firmly upholding institutional order within its jurisdiction, defending its historical role, and preserving the morale of its personnel. Marino today left his post in the hands of Rear Admiral Maximo Rivero Kelly in the course of a ceremony which was held at the heliport of the Libertad Building and which was presided over by Navy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Ramon Arosa. Admiral Marino has retired.

At earlier ceremonies Adm Arosa installed Rear Admiral Adolfo Mario Arduino as director of naval training, and Captain Roberto Pertuccio as director of the Navy War School. Arduino and Pertuccio replaced Rear Admiral Ernesto Diamante who was director of naval training and also acting director of the War School.

AIR FORCE RESPONDS TO PERTINI PLANE INCIDENT

PY142200 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- The Air Force yesterday discarded the possibility of attempted sabotage against the Alitalia jet that was to take Italian President Sandro Pertini back to his country. In a statement the Air Force said it was not to blame for what happened and denied reports from Alitalia in Italy that the plane had been sabotaged before it was to leave Ezeiza International Airport last Monday.

The Air Force stated that "the aircraft was under permanent guard from the moment it arrived at Ezeiza. The only personnel authorized to go near it were those specifically assigned by the Alitalia firm." Pertini's special flight was suspended for five hours after it was found that air valves from the Alitalia jet's undercarriage tyres had been placed in on of the engines.

ASTIZ CASE BACK IN COURT, CHARGES PRESENTED

PY131147 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Mar 85 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- The Armed Forces Supreme Council, following a request by the Defence Ministry, yesterday handed back charges against Navy Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz to the Federal Appeals Court. The Defence Ministry, through military prosecutor Hector Canale, appealed the Council's decision to clear Astiz of charges that he participated in the kidnapping of disappeared Swedish youth Dagmar Hagelin. Astiz was released from preventive arrest last week when the Council issued its ruling. Council Secretary Edgardo Semberoiz presented Federal Appeals Court Chairman Leon Carlos Arslanian with the written charges against Astiz at 5 pm yesterday.

Under military code of justice reforms made last year, Supreme Council rulings may be appealed in federal court.

Reliable sources said Canale's appeal centred on the argument that the Defence Ministry should have been notified before Astiz was released and cleared by the Council, which used a 1981 military court ruling to reach its decision. Canale reportedly argued that the ministry still had the right to contest the 1981 military court decision to clear Astiz and could have then requested that the Hagelin case be reopened.

The Council on Friday also accepted an appeal by Hagelin family lawyers to have Mr Hagelin considered a plaintiff in the investigations into his daughter's disappearance in 1977. Both appeals are expected to be studied now by the II Chamber of the Federal Appeals Court -- the same chamber that last Febraury rejected an appeal to keep the case out of the Supreme Council.

CNEA CHAIRMAN ON PROGRAM'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

PY090207 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Mar (NA) -- Talking before the Chamber of Deputies Science and Technology Commission, Alberto Constantini, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], today said that the $420-million budget that has been allocated to the sector for 1985 "will not allow us to conclude the work plan at the Atucha II nuclear plant nor at the Arroyito heavy water plant." He harshly criticized the Finance Secretariat for making this decision.

Before the Radical Civic Union [UCR] and Peronist deputies who make up the commission, Constantini said that "the amount that has been allocated follows a rigid pattern established by the Energy Secretariat that calls for the Atucha II plant to be in operation by 1990." He warned that "we shall have to halt all research programs and work on the pilot plants, among them the production of cyclotrones." Moreover, the CNEA chairman complained that "last December the president approved a budget plan for nuclear activities, for which we requested $550 million, but Finance Secretariat officials have misinterpreted what was approved by the president."

He noted that "we shall have to stop all nuclear electrical activity, and this implies that we shall have to fire many physicists" involved in research work. He noted that "our budget is being discriminated against by the Finance Secretariat." He said that "we are led to believe that we are dealing with a group of ecologists" at the Finance Secretariat.

Constantini said that the budget will mean that we shall have to stop work on the Tander project (heavy iron engine) [acelerador de iones pesados], which will mean frustration for 100 physicists" and for "another group of physicists who are working at the Pilcaneyu uranium enrichment plant."

Constantini's explanation led the UCR and Justicialist legislators, among them the chairman of the Legislative Commission, Jorge Chein, to express their intention to request information from the Finance Secretariat on the discrimination in the budget allocated to CNEA programs. Constantini noted that "we requested a special budget allocation for work to be developed in the uranium enrichment and reprocessing processes, but we did not get this amount. Since we have a pending contract, the CNEA is going to spend as much as if we were to work in this project."

He strongly questioned the policy being implemented by the Finance Secretariat by noting that "we are handling the financial situation very badly." He added that in view of delays in the work schedule, the Atucha II project will yield an economic loss because what Germany is doing at a cost of $1,000 per kilowatt, Argentina will do at a cost of $7,000. He also alleged "contradictions" [in the financial policy] because although "a presidential message on the budget calls for the termination of the heavy water plant, the Techint company is firing welders in the "heavy water plant because of the lack of government resources to pay them."

CGT'S UBALDINI RULES OUT NATIONWIDE STRIKE

PY081815 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Mar 85 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Some 25,000 auto workers nationwide began a 38-hour strike yesterday to demand payhikes, as unified CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini warned that "it is not hard to predict protests in a country destroyed by inflation and without a viable economic programme." But Ubaldini discarded the possibility of a national strike call by the CGT as long as negotiations continue with the government. "It would be wrong for us to call a strike when there is still hope in dialogue," Ubaldini said, adding that only a national plenary meeting of CGT secretaries-general -- set for March 25 -- could call a country-wide strike.

Meanwhile Jorge Triaca, another of the four national CGT secretaries-general, said the CGT expects the government to reestablish wage bargaining talks by early June when President Raul Alfonsin is to address the annual International Labour Organization conference. Triaca said the government must also reintroduce CGT-supported laws on workers' social benefit funds and on trades unions.

Some 1,500 auto workers marched on Government House and the Employers Association as part of a battle plan to demand pay hikes. The strike -- staged by union (SMATA) [Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers] members employed at auto dealerships -- follows a 14-hour stoppage last February 7. In a statement addressed to the president, SMATA complained that dealership employees' wages have fallen 51 percent between June 1984 and January 1985. Unless their pay demands are met, dealership employees are expected to announce a new strike that could be joined by the rest of SMATA's 30,000 members.

Education Secretary Bernardo Sola yesterday denied that Radical and Peronist fighting had split the Federal Council of Education. The council will reconvene "when tempers cool down," Sola said. On Wednesday Radical council-members walked out of a meeting when Peronist provincial education ministers demanded that the federal and provincial governments decide wage hikes jointly.

The Buenos Aires Province government announced that all teachers fired for political reasons during the former military regime would be rehired. Eligible teachers have until November 13, 1987 to apply for their old posts. White-collar staff at the Greater Buenos Aires Power Company (SEGBA) said they would continue work-to-rule measures indefinitely to demand pay hikes, and the 160,000-strong bank clerks' association confirmed it would go ahead with a series of strkes as of next Monday.

CGT DISAGREES WITH BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT ACCORD

PY132040 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Mar 85 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Rural Society Chairman Guillermo Alchourron yesterday said business groups had reached a tentative socio-economic agreement with the government, but the unified CGT said it would not sign because the pact does not guarantee union administration of workers' social benefits funds. After talks yesterday with Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli, Alchourron said it was "very probable" that business groups participating in the contract talks would meet today with government to sign a final agreement. But CGT directive board members announced after meeting last night for three hours that they had voted not to sign the contract due to its clause referring to workers' social benefits funds. The government has consistently said the funds should be administered by the workers and not necessarily by unions. News reports had said President Raul Alfonsin wanted to have the contract signed before leaving for Brazil and the United States on Friday. CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini earlier yesterday called for a "total war against unemployment and lay-offs" and said the CGT would shortly come out with an alternative socio-economic plan to "eradicate the extreme poverty" in Argentina.

On the strike front, 140,000 bank clerks nationwide stopped work two hours early yesterday to demand the government withdraw plans to shut down 800 bank branch offices. The clerks are to strike again today for two hours as well as next week, when three days of three-hour work stoppages are expected.

PERONIST YOUTH RALLY; DISPUTES CONTINUE

PY131153 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Mar 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- About 10,000 Peronist youths rallied in Plaza One last night to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the 1973 national electoral triumph by the Frejuli [Justicialist Liberation Front] coalition. Organized by the Unified Peronist Youth, the rally was attended by the first vice-president of the Rio Hondo Peronist faction, national Senator Oraldo Britos. Others in attendance included national deputies Adam Pedrini, Roberto Garcia and Julio Barbaro as well as unionists Raimundo Ongaro, Julio Guillan and Roberto Digon. Reliable congress sources yesterday reported that Peronist senators demanded and got the resignation of Senator Eduardo Menem as bloc second vice-president. Menem was said to have handed in his resignation after a strong verbal dispute with Senators Ramon Almendra and Celestino Marini over his favourable position towards the Peace and Friendship Treaty with Chile. Tucuman Peronists reportedly entered a provincial-level crisis, as reliable sources said that party convention delegates have demanded the resignation of Governor Francisco Riera's entire cabinet.

WORKERS REJECT SILES PROPOSAL, REQUEST MEETING

PY141848 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Here is a fast-breaking report by Hilarion Perez, Radio Panamericana reporter who is now with the mineworkers:

[Begin report] [Perez] Thank you. Good afternoon, listeners throughout the country.

This is very important news, because the assembly of the mineworkers, which was held this morning in the stadium in La Paz, passed as its main resolution that the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers [FSTMB], and the secretaries general of the various mineworkers unions may have a meeting with the president this afternoon for the purpose of discussing the salary problem. This news was released by Juan Lechin Oquendo, COB chief executive, and also by the FSTMB, which had stated this morning that the government offer of a 50-percent salary increase had been rejected, according to the conclusions drawn by the assembly.

Let us listen to the important resolutions of the mineworkers' assembly held in La Paz this morning, which finished about noon.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] This is our concrete position:

1. The government proposal on salaries for the workers has been rejected as being ridiculous. [applause]

2. We resolve to seek a meeting with the president in order to definitely and concretely learn what the government and the president want to give. After that, his reply, we will discuss with you the (?acceptance) or rejection [words indistinct]. [end recording]

This is the last minute news. We repeat: The mineworkers, through their national organizations, that is, the COB and the FSTMB will possibly meet this afternoon with the president. Thank you. [end report]

MINE 'BYPASS' COB, SUSPEND COERCIVE ACTIONS

PY142100 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Mineworkers' leaders have bypassed the leadership of the COB to ensure that no political group will benefit from the mineworker's mobilization, one of their leaders announced to some 15,000 mineworkers in an open stadium. The mineworkers, serene and consistent, discussed the 19-page government proposal which replies to the 17 demands made by the COB.

The mineworkers leadership has provided us with the following summary of their debate:

We mineworkers reject any classification as terrorists, as instigators of social unrest in La Paz. We suspend all coercive measures ordered by the COB leadership. We agree to form a basic negotiating committee to start talks with President Siles' constitutional government. In principle, we accept the government proposal and we will use it as a basis on which to continue discussing further issues.

The establishment of an adjustable minimum wage is an essential objective sought by the working class, but one which cannot be attained at the moment because it represents a quite unreachable objective.

The mineworkers say that their presence in La Paz only means that they are seeking a solution to their social problems, such as salaries, price controls, and proper food supplies. They reject any link with excreme leftist political parties that are only trying to benefit from the workers' mobilization. Finally, the mineworkers asked the president to personally preside over the negotiation process with them, instead of sending the economic cabinet. The mineworkers also requested the COB to call a national meeting of union leaders tomorrow to discuss the new phase of the mineworkers movement.

La Paz Returning to Normal

PY142009 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Early this morning the Bolivian police allowed pedestrians into Plaza Murillo and Calle Comercio by removing the security barrier that was installed there on 11 March.

Public protests, as reflected in the responsible national press and public opinion, were directed against the excesses committed by the COB leadership which nearly brought Bolivian democracy to an end in the past few days.

After the statement by the commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces, harsh and objective criticisms against the main COB leaders followed. According to public opinion, the COB leaders have always created difficult situations for the people, and in the worst cases the COB leaders themselves have had to seek asylum in foreign embassies.

Craft centers, private offices, and other labor centers have returned to normal. Public transportation, although limited, is providing service between the suburbs and downtown. Agricultural workers are working as usual during this harvest season.

Main and secondary roads were open and transportation of food to the cities is returning to normal, according to reports from the minister of Agriculture, Campesino Affairs, and Livestock Affairs.

Siles Meets with Mineworkers

PY150316 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0242 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 14 Mar (EFE) -- Bolivan President Hernan Siles Zuazo today met with a delegation of striking mineworkers who he asked to provide a written answer to the government's proposals.

This is a government of workers and peasants and we are greatly worrried by this distressing situation, especially because it has turned us into adversaries, Siles told the 11 mineworkers.

The government has answered the 17 demands of the COB, which included salary hikes, supply of foodstuffs and staples, price controls, and so forth, which prompted an indefinite general strike that started 1 week ago.

The COB verbally rejected the government's answer, but Siles asked the mineworkers, the vanguard of the labor struggle, to put their requests in writing for him to study once more and use as a basis for a possible solution to the strike.

The president told the miners that the strike is costing the country $10 million per day and that a solution must be sought to improve the standard of living of all Bolivians.

Siles told the mineworkers that his first job was at a mine and that since then, he has been on the side of the people.

Daniel Ordonez, chairman of the strike committee, thanked Siles for his concern and told him that we are as interested as you are in finding a solution to the problem. He added, however, the dialogue with the ministers has been exhausted because they know very little about the work of the mineworkers.

Siles interrupted the leader of the mineworkers to tell him that the ministers of the government are doing everything they can for the good of the country. He added that the crisis has been inherited from military regimes and worsened by natural disasters and that hunger is widespread.

Miners Blame Leftist Parties

PY150415 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0307 GMT 15 Mar 85

[By Amanda Davila]

[Text] La Paz, 14 (EFE) -- Bolivian mineworkers stated today that left-wing parties are mainly responsible for the current political crisis of the country. During a meeting of mineworkers unions of both private and state-owned corporations, the workers harshly criticized leftist parties for having been unable to offer the labor movement a popular and revolutionary option capable of overcoming Bolivia's political stagnation.

The workers agreed that Bolivia is facing one of the worst economic, political, and social crises in its history. They indicated that in light of the current decay of Bolivia's political structure, the leftist parties have engaged in personal squabbles and internal disputes and have forgotten all about their duty to set a course of action for the popular movement.

The workers criticized the Democratic and Popular Unity front, which was made up by the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, led by current Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, led by former Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, and the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB).

The MIR left the government twice, and the PCB followed suit over disagreements about economic policy and political leadership.

The UDP won the election in Bolivia three times in a row (1978, 1979, and 1980) and had started out with strong support from the workers and the people.

The workers stated during their political discussions that the UDP has failed as a result of its incoherence and disunity over the government's programs.

The UDP claimed to be leftist but, in the mineworkers' opinion, it yielded to the private sector, to U.S. imperialism, to the IMF, and to privileged bourgeois sectors.

The other leftist parties have not proposed solutions to the political crisis because, in the opinion of the miners, they were busy trying to solve their internal divisions.

Simon Reyes, public relations secretary of the FSTMB and first secretary of the PCB, last night admitted that his party had committed political errors in the government.

In a speech described as brilliant by the audience, Reyes said that the PCB had veered away from its ideology in order to stay in a government which has moved away from the working class.

Senior mining leader Filemon Escobar stated that in the absence of the leftist parties, the COB has become a political instrument with a strong rallying power.

Government: Miners Not Seeking Coup

PY151506 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] According to an official bulletin issued by the Information Ministry, based on declarations made by leaders of various mining districts, the mobilization of mineworkers from throughout the country is not aimed at overthrowing President Siles Zuazo. The bulletin points out that the mineworkers denied that the mobilization that began last week is aimed at overthrowing the president and that the mineworkers' general assembly requested a meeting with the president to learn his opinion of the miners' demands on salaries, food supplies, and price controls. The official bulletin adds that mining leaders from the Bolivar, Potosi, Catavi, Viloco, Conquiri, Corocoro, La Paz, and Huanuni mine districts reiterated that the demand for an adjustable minimum wage is the goal [words indistinct] of the workers. The bulletin also adds that the mineworkers' leaders decided to request a meeting with President Siles to learn his opinion of the workers demands after the rejected government salary proposal.

COB Calls National Meeting

PY141909 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Executive Committee of the COB confirms that it has decided to reject the reply delivered by the government to the workers yesterday morning. Walter Delgadillo, formerly an active member of the Christian Democratic Party and now COB secretary general, member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, Masses Faction, also said that a national workers meeting will be held tomorrow as of 1430 at the Teacher's Social Club. Delgadillo said that the government's reply document should be analyzed by all labor organizations. Delgadillo added that the COB National Executive Board decided to reject the government reply published yesterday. It is now expected that the rejection will be unanimous, he explained.

PEASANT LEADER REPORTS BLOCKADES, CLASH WITH ARMY

PY142250 Paris AFP in Spanish 2202 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] La Paz, 14 Mar (AFP) -- Victor Morales, one of the leaders of the Single Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia [Csutcb] today reported that several peasant workers who were blocking the roads in Machacamarca, a mining district 272 km west of La Paz, were wounded by the Army. Morales did not specify the number wounded or the extent of their injuries, but added that roadblocks are affecting the entire country.

He explained that this drastic measure was implemented to support the indefinite general strike which the influential COB has been carrying out for 7 days to demand the establishment of an adjustable minimum wage.

However, this strike could be resolved if the meeting which COB leader Juan Lechin Oquendo asked to have with President Hernan Siles Zuazo takes place in the coming hours.

Minister Denies Reports

PY142155 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 2115 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Report from Government House]

[Excerpts] National Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo has denied reports made by the Csutcb that incidents betwen the Armed Forces and peasants had taken place in Machacamarca. Cardenas said that absolutely no incidents or encounters have taken place there.

Minister Cardenas told us the following as he arrived at Government House:

[Begin recording] The situation is normal in the Oruro Department, and particularly in Machacamarca. Those reports are false. [end recording]

This was the statement of National Defense Minister Cardenas. Calm prevails throughout the country, at least on the roads, according to what he said. He denied the accusations by the Csutcb that encounters between the police and peasants had taken place in Machacamarca. The minister denied these incidents and said that these accusations were promoted by certain Csutcb leaders for political reasons.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS STRIKE ISOLATES COUNTRY

PY141418 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The stoppage by the National Telecommunications Enterprise is continuing. In the past few hours an attempt has been made to find points of agreement between the government and the workers in order to lift the blocking of communications, which has isolated the country from the rest of the world and has also broken off communications inside the country. Labor leader Edgar Llanque had the following to say:

[Begin recording] Basically because of the lack of competence, or perhaps lack of sensitivity, and I particularly want to stress this, on the part of government officials, and despite the fact that the talks have been resumed through the mediation of the Foreign Ministry under secretary, at the request of the diplomatic corps, nothing specific has been done and no solution of the problem is in sight, a solution that is so eagerly desired by the people and also by our labor federation. [end recording]

WORKERS SOCIALIST PARTY ASKS SILES TO RESIGN

PY141536 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The Workers Socialist Party [PST] is asking for Dr Hernan Siles Zuazo's resignation and maintains that if the government is incapable of guaranteeing supplies, granting a minimum salary, and preventing starvation, then it should resign in order to prevent a confrontation.

The PST also maintains that Siles should hand over government to the COB, not to Congress or the judicial branch. It adds that the COB is the only organization that can save Bolivia by applying its emergency plan.

The PST then states that there are 10,000 mineworkers with dynamite in La Paz, so the generals and colonels should think that over very carefully before they attack their people. In conclusion, the PST, which some place within the extreme left, says that it is ready at any time to engage in public debate with any government official in order to tell and explain why the government should go and hand over power to the COB in order to prevent a confrontation.

The document, released to the news media, is signed by (Pablo Solon).

NO CASUALTIES REPORTED IN LA PAZ BOMBINGS

Explosion Near Radio Station

PY141451 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] There was a strong explosion in downtown La Paz last night a few minutes before 2100. The explosion occurred in front of the Libertador Hotel and severely damaged the structure of the hotel building. It is not known whether there are any casualties.

A second weaker explosion took place 10 minutes later near Radio Continental, which belongs to the factory workers union. Both explosions may be related to the strike movement in Bolivia, because Radio Continental is a workers station.

Hundreds of mineworkers who have arrifed in La Paz to protest against the government are lodged in the former Lasalle School, a dependency of the Law School of the Greater University of San Andres, which is located infront of the Libertador Hotel. Radio Continental is located in front of the barracks of the Women's Police Brigade, not far from the Central Railway Station.

Government Oil Company Bombed

PY141935 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Today at noon, an unidentified individual threw a bomb into the installations of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits Company, located near the general cemetery. The explosion caused damage to the installations and nearby houses. The force of the explosion broke a large number of windowpanes, but fortunately there were no victims. In view of this attack, the oil workers union leaders have instructed the workers to mount an armed guard for protection. In addition they have asked for an increase in the number of police at the place.

ELECTORAL COURT PROPOSES ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

PY142050 La Paz Radio Panamericana 2035 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The plenary session of the National Electoral Court, which ended a few hours ago, has decided to propose to Congress the postponement of national elections until 14 July of this year. This decision was reached after almost 3 hours of discussion. Edgar Oblitas, the president of the National Electoral Court, said that the court is technically unable to fulfill the timetable to permit elections to take place on 16 June. We reiterate that as a result of its plenary session, the National Electoral Court will propose the postponement of elections until 14 July.

NEVES UNDERGOES 'ACUTE APPENDICITIS' OPERATION

NC150725 Paris AFP on English 0601 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Brasilia, March 15 (AFP) -- Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves underwent a successful operation for acute appendicitis here late Thursday night, less than 12 hours before he was due to be sworn in as Brazil's first civilian president in more than 20 years.

The vice president-elect, Jose Sarney, was expected to be sworn into office on schedule and then take over as interim president pending full recovery by the 75-year-old Mr Neves.

Leaders from around the world had gathered for the inauguration when the president-elect was stricken shortly before midnight. After disputed interpretations of Article 76 of the Constitution covering the presidential succession, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Ulysses Guimaraes, announced that Mr Sarney would take office as vice president and then assume the top post until the president recovered.

Mr Sarney, 54, is a former member of the Social Democratic Party (PDS) which was backed by the outgoing military regime, but he refused to support PDS leader Paulo Maluf for the presidency, thus helping swing the election to Mr Neves. Mr Sarney is also a painter and writer who is a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters. He and his wife Marly have three children, including a son who is a member of parliament.

Condition Stable

PY151150 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Medical bulletin read by presidential spokesman Antonio Prieto at the base hospital in Brasilia -- live]

[Text] President-elect Tancredo Neves has been in the recovery area at the base hospital since 0530 this morning. There is a full staff taking care of him. His post-operation condition is stable. The bulletin is signed by Dr Renuma Ribeiro, Dr Feniquito Queiroz Rocha, and Dr Gustavo Palenque.

FOREIGN LEADERS ATTEND PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Daniel Ortega Activities

PY150029 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 85 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega (who is due to arrive in Brazil today to attend Tancredo Neves' inauguration) could hold a meeting with U.S. Vice President George Bush in Brasilia, diplomatic sources admitted yesterday.

The Nicaraguan Embassy also tried to arrange a meeting between Ortega and Ulysses Guimaraes, and the president of the Chamber of Deputies said that he would first ask Itamaraty about the matter. Meanwhile, several Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party members have already told him that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will meet with President Ortega on Tuesday.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2214 GMT on 14 March reports: "Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Brasilia at 1855 local time today and was welcomed at the airport by Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro. Ortega arrived at the head of a small entourage which will participate tomorrow in the inauguration of President-elect Tancredo Neves."]

Alfonsin Meets Legislators

PY150217 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0003 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 14 Mar (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Brazilian lawmakers today met to discuss the possibility of stepping up the process of Brazilian-Argentine integration now that democracy has been reestablished in both countries.

After the meeting, President Alfonsin was asked whether the Chilean situation was discussed during the talks. He stressed, "We did not discuss countries that are not democratic."

The meeting was also attended by Jorge Sabato, Argentine foreign secretary for Latin American affairs. Prior to the meeting Alfonsin conveyed his greetings to outgoing President Joao Figueiredo at the Planalto Palace. At the Nacional Hotel he met Nelson Carreiro, president of the Latin American Parliament.

Sanguinetti Press Conference

PY150200 Paris AFP in Spanish 2211 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Mar (AFP) -- Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today said in Brasilia that his government is studying the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba. The Uruguayan chief executive made this remark in the course of a press conference which he held at the Uruguayan Embassy in Brasilia this afternoon, 1 hour after arriving in this capital where he will attend the inauguration of the new Brazilian president, Tancredo Neves, tomorrow.

After stating that Uruguay supports the negotiations for peace in Central America which the countries of the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama -- are conducting, Sanguinetti indicated that his government hopes to maintain relations with all countries of the world, without any political restrictions.

He added that the Foreign Ministries of Uruguay and Cuba are currently studying the possibility of reestablishing diplomatic relations and explained that this issue will be resolved within the framework of compliance with the principles of nonintervention and mutual respect.

The Uruguayan president said that in the course of his stay in Brasilia there could be contacts to normalize relations with other Caribbean countries. After pointing out that solutions must be found for border conflicts which certain Latin American countries are facing, Sanguinetti stated that Latin America must make efforts to cope with the challange which integration poses. He added: The democratic governments of this continent must strengthen democracy and at the same time come up with solutions to their countries' economic and social problems.

Members of Uruguayan Delegation

PY142025 Montevideo Radio Monte Carlo Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 Mar 85

[By Lisian Sergizian]

[Excerpts] This is a special report filed from the Uruguayan Embassy in Brasilia. President Julio Maria Sanguinetti arrived here at noon to attend President Tancredo Neves' inauguration tomorrow.

The official Uruguayan delegation, which has already arrived in Brasilia, is made up of Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, Presidential Assistant Secretary (Walter Nessi), Military Household Chief General Guillermo De Nava, Director of the Presidential Information Secretariat (Eduardo Nabia), Foreign Ministry First Secretary (Tabare Bocalandro), and Uruguayan Ambassador to Brazil Manuel Lessa Marquez. Also making up the delegation at the special invitation of President Sanguinetti are Blanco Party leader Juan Raul Ferreira, Broad Front leader General Liber Seregni, Colorado Party Senator Jorge Batlle, and Deputies Roberto Asiain and (Guillermo Stirling).

In the Uruguayan Embassy in Brasilia, President Sanguinetti will receive Portuguese leader Mario Soares today, U.S. Vice President George Bush tomorrow, and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on Saturday. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1255 GMT on 14 March reports that Uruguayan Interior Minister Carlos Manini Rios is also a member of the Uruguayan delegation traveling to Brasilia.]

Venezuelan Interior Minister

PA141708 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The official Venezuelan Government delegation that will attend the inauguration of Tancredo Neves, the new Brazilian president tomorrow, is in Brasilia.

The delegation is headed by Interior Minister Octavio Lepage. Lepage is accompanied by Enrique Tejera Paris, director of international affairs of the Democratic Action Party; Deputy Milagros de Gonzalez, who is in charge of women's affairs for the Social Christian Party; and Alfredo Baldo Casanova, former Venezuelan ambassador to the sister nations.

Remarks by FRG's Genscher

LD141521 Hamburg DPA in German 1433 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 14 Mar (DPA) -- Following Brazil's return to democracy, the federal government wants to deepen political dialogue with this important Latin American country and to expand economic, technological, scientific, social, and cultural cooperation. Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher stated this in Brasilia today following a talk with Brazilian Vice President Aureliano Chaves.

Genscher arrived last night in the Brazilian capital from Uruguay, where he will witness the inauguration tomorrow of Trancredo Neves.

In Brasilia, Genscher stressed primarily the importance of economic cooperation between the Federal Republic and Brazil. The national economies of the two countries are complementary, the foreign minister said. It is now important to improve conditions for German investment and to dispose of existing restrictions.

Seeks EC-Latin America Talks

LD142119 Hamburg DPA in German 1922 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Mar (DPA) -- FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has proposed a new conference of EC and Latin American foreign ministers. It became known in Brasilia today, after talks between Genscher and the foreign ministers of six Latin American states, that this conference would -- according to the Genscher proposal -- take place in Luxembourg toward the end of the year. Genscher is in Brazil for the inauguration of the democratically elected president, Tancredo Neves, on Friday.

A first Latin American-European foreign ministers conference took place in San Jose (Costa Rica) in early October 1984. It was agreed there to continue the political and economic dialogue and to strive for an agreement on cooperation.

The foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Honduras, Venezuela, El Salvador, and Mexico, and the deputy foreign minister of Guatemala, took part in the conference with Genscher.

The second central topic of discussion was the situation in Central America. Genscher promised further support from Bonn for the initiative of the so-called Contadora Group, which is striving to solve the conflict in Central America by peaceful means. The Contadora Group includes Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico.

Genscher also spoke in Brazilia today with Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Larijan [name and title as received] and Vice President of Brazil Aureliano Chaves.

Contadora Ministers To Meet

PY141257 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2307 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Mar (EFE) -- The inaugural ceremonies for the next Brazilian president, Tancredo Neves, will be a new occasion for the Contadora Group to continue its pacification program in Central America.

Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica today told EFE that the preparations for a new meeting of the group, which is made up of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, were intensified today in Brasilia in an attempt to achieve the meeting's objective.

Paz Barnica expressed his hope that this peace process will develop by taking advantage of the presence in Brazil of the foreign ministers of the countries that signed the Contadora Document.

Representing their respective governments, the following foreign ministers [as received] will be present in Brasilia: Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo of Colombia, Gustavo Garcia de Paredes of Panama, and Otavio Iepage of Venezuela.

According to Central American diplomatic sources, the meeting will reportedly be held on Friday after Neves assumes the presidency.

The objective, according to the same sources, is to continue the efforts to find a common agreement that will facilitate the gradual pacification of Central America.

This meeting reportedly will complement the efforts made in Montevideo at the beginning of the month during the inauguration ceremony for Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. At that time the proposal the group presented to Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and El Salvador was blocked.

DEL VALLE COMMENTS ON BEAGLE TREATY APPROVAL

PY141314 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 85

[By Hugo Reyes]

[Text] The Chilean foreign minister has stated that 30 days after the peace and friendship treaty on the southern border dispute is approved by the Chilean and Argentine legislative branches and by the respective governments, Chilean and Argentine authorities will proceed to exchange copies of the agreement. Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle added that he is in permanent contact with his Argentine colleague, Dante Caputo, with whom he is studying the situation.

Praises Argentine Senate Vote

PY150139 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today emphasized the participation of the Argentine people, of the Argentine Congress, and of President Alfonsin himself in the approval of the peace and friendship treaty with Chile. He added that President Raul Alfonsin enjoys the support of a great majority. Diplomatic sources have stressed the importance of the Argentine Senate decision.

Minister Del Valle said this afternoon that he was deeply satisfied and very pleased by the Argentine Senate approval of the peace and friendship treaty with Chile proposed by Pope John Paul II.

The foreign minister said that in addition to the Senate vote early today, it was necessary to recall the previous favorable reaction of all the Argentine people in the November plebiscite last year, and the position adopted later by the Argentine Chamber of Deputies. This is to be added to the favorable reaction from President Alfonsin himself, Del Valle remarked. The Argentine president has the support of a great majority, he stressed.

Minister Del Valle said that the Chilean government junta will have to establish its position toward the treaty on 19 March, at the opening of the regular period of sessions in its capacity as the Chilean legislative branch.

INTERVENTION OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LIFTED

PY132140 Paris AFP in Spanish 0029 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 12 Mar (AFP) -- The Vatican and Chile have reached an agreement which put an end to the intervention of the military regime in the Catholic University of Santiago. According to a joint communique, an academic rector has been appointed to that house of studies. The university was intervened by the military authorities 11 and 1/2 years ago along with all other Chilean institutes of higher education, after General Augusto Pinochet's regime took over.

Juan de Dios Vial, a medical doctor and university professor, was appointed rector of the Catholic University, according to the communique released by the apostolic nunciature in Santiago. Vial is taking the place of Vice Admiral Jorge Swett, retired, who has served as government-appointed rector since late 1973. Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno proposed the name of the new rector to the Holy See and the latter relayed the proposal to the Chilean Government, according to some reports.

Seven other institutes of higher education, including the University of Chile, the largest in the country, are being managed by government-appointed rectors.

CARABINEROS RELEASE FINAL EARTHQUAKE TOTALS

PY132055 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Mar 85

[By Ricardo Urzua]

[Text] According to the Carabineros Order and Security Department, the earthquake that affected the central region of the country left 146 dead, 1,977 injured, and 83,708 homeless.

The report adds that in the metropolitan area there were 69 dead, 929 injured, and 3,889 families [as heard] left homeless.

In Coquimbo there were 8 injured, and 612 families left homeless; in Valparaiso 26 dead, 200 injured, and 828 families left homeless. There were also (?ditches) damaged, but they do not pose any immediate danger.

In Vina del Mar there were 9 dead, 164 injured, and 1,081 families left homeless; in San Felipe there was one dead, two injured, and 7,580 persons [as heard] left homeless; in San Antonio there were 18 dead, 200 injured, and 11,298 persons left homeless; in (Cachacual) there were 21 dead, 344 injured, and 2,766 families left homeless; in Colchagua there was one dead, 63 injured, and 864 families left homeless; in Curico one dead, 59 injured, and 6,030 families left homeless; and in Talca seven injured.

Disaster Area Extended

PY142009 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] President Augusto Pinochet has ordered that Talca Province be declared a disaster area. We have this report from Radio Nacional de Chile of Talca:

Good afternoon. Colonel (Patricio Barrena Saldia), intendant of the Maule region, has reported that through Decree 324 the president of the Republic has ordered that the disaster area be extended to Talca Province in view of the damages caused by the 3 March earthquake.

BETANCUR ISSUES WARNING TO GUERRILLA GROUPS

PA142248 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- It is imperative to begin a drive against violence and its agents, Colombian President Belisario Betancur stated before Congress as he called on all Colombians to fight kidnapping, extortion, and blackmail. In what was a serious warning to guerrilla groups, the president said: Peace must be met with peace; a stretched out hand must not be confused with leniency or a disregard for the constitutional duties that I swore to carry out and which I will strictly adhere to until the end of my term in office. During his speech opening the special session of Congress, Betancur said that there is no doubt that extortion, kidnapping, issuing threats, or obtaining political campaign funds through force are crimes; therefore, he has instructed all concerned to enforce the law without any hesitation or leniency toward those who break it.

The country looks on in disbelief as bands of delinquents continue to want to make a living by attacking basic human rights, he observed. He warned that political parties that carry arms will be barred from participating in the electoral campaign. Betancur stated that he will continue to advance his peace policy, pointing out that the introduction in the Congress of a bill to pardon political criminals must be interpreted as a sign of goodwill, but warned guerrillas that they must take positive action to prove their desire to rejoin civilian life and accept the duties and limitations that this constitutional order imposes.

SEVEN POLICEMEN WOUNDED IN ATTACK IN CALI

PA132323 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1633 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 13 Mar (EFE) -- Colonel Alvaro Matiz Cortes, commander of Cali's Metropolitan Police, charged today that a national plan "to subvert public order in Colombia" is currently under way.

"The latest developments demonstrate that this is the work of guerrillas, who, through such actions, are pursuing a national plan to create disorder," said Matiz, commander of the police in this town in western Colombia. Matiz made this assertion hours after a terrorist group staged an attack with grenades and gunfire on a police substation at Barrio municipality in eastern Cali.

Seven policemen were wounded, three of them somewhat seriously, in the attack.

The authorities said that the attackers scattered a substantial amount of propaganda material on a movement identified as "Los Barriales" on the floor of the station. The police station was seriously damaged in the attack, which took place hours after joint Army and police forces ended their occupation of the town.

On Tuesday, 250 members of the "Broad Civic Group" occupied the Swedish Consulate, a church, and a radio station to protest the disappearance of several students and the eviction of persons who had taken over lands belonging to the municipality. The eviction operations took place simultaneously in the evening and, as a result, 76 people were taken to the Pichincha Battalion's headquarters in Cali until their status can be defined.

Cali Mayor Alvaro Navia called on the population to abstain from seeking solutions through pressure and said that there is a more rational way to solve problems.

BRIEFS

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE -- Hernando Baquero Borda has been elected new Supreme Court Justice replacing Judge Alvaro Luna Gomez. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Feb 85 p 3 PA]

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR NEVES' INAUGURATION

PY141205 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 Mar 85 p 7

[Excerpt] Some of the members of the special delegation that will represent our country at the inauguration ceremony in Brazil on 15 March departed on the afternoon of 13 March.

The delegation is made up of Juan Ramon Chaves, president of the Senate and president of the National Republican Association, Colorado Party; Foreign Minister Carlos A. Saldivar; and Major General Adolfo Samaniego, our ambassador to Brazil.

Juan Ramon Chaves and Carlos A. Saldivar traveled with Jesus Maria Gutierrez, deputy director of protocol. Ambassador Samaniego will join the delegation in Brasilia.

LAINO SUPPORTERS IMPRISONED; WIFE PROTESTS EXILE

PY141137 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 12 Mar 85 p 12

[Text] Amancio Caballero and Mariano Nunez have been sent to Tacumbu prison on charges of attacking police officers. They were arrested on 8 March at the intersection of Madame Lynch and Aviadores del Chaco Avenues, where they were planning to welcome Laino.

Police officers stationed in the area tried to give instructions to the people who had gathered there, but this led to an incident resulting in the arrest of Caballero and Nunez.

Lawyer Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin this morning stated that these two members of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party were sent to Tacumbu prison on charges of attacking a police officer. However, the lawyer stated: "The policemen were the ones who attacked the demonstrators."

The executive board of the Liberal Party faction led by Joaquin A. Burgos has issued a communique that states: "The Liberal Party deplores the most recent expulsion from our fatherland of fellow party member Domingo Laino.

"It is our party's staunch position that no Paraguayan should be exiled for any reason whatsoever because of the inalienable right to live in one's native country.

"The party further laments the unjust manner in which the party in government has charged Laino with actions that in our country are considered criminal, without supplying any evidence to support these charges," the communique added.

Meanwhile, Laino's wife, Rafaela Guanes Condra, has released an open letter addressed to Anibal Fernandez [presidential press secretary], rejecting the official's remarks against her husband.

"Anibal Fernandes said that Laino has no popular support. I would like to ask him," the letter states, "why they are afraid of him? What can a single man without popular support do to harm a government that claims to have the support of 9 out of every 10 Paraguayans? I would like to point out that as a Paraguayan citizen and the wife of a democratic and militant opposition politician, I have always made denunciations, and now I will add those of a mother of four children who are forced to live separated from their father."

STRIKING STATE WORKERS MARCH, CLASH WITH POLICE

PY141358 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Marches in the downtown sector with frequent, isolated clashes with police took place today in Lima. The marchers were government employees who have been on strike for 9 days. The majority of them gathered at the Paseo de la Republica and on Garcilaso de la Vega Avenue, across the street from the prime minister's office where union leaders met with the members of the committee which is evaluating their demands. One of the union leaders noted that they had submitted a new proposal, but that no agreement was reached. Police have started to disperse the strikers, who carried placards and chanted pro-strike slogans.

To Begin Coercive Actions

PY141354 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The state employees have agreed to begin coercive actions today by seizing public buildings and blocking highways and roads, thus expressing their dissatisfaction over the proposals made by the multisectorial committee at the meeting held with leaders of the State Workers Intersector Confederation.

This committee had promised to reconsider the increase offered the previous day -- 80,000 to 90,000 soles effective 1 May, and 90,000 to 110,000 effective 1 November 1985. It also promised an increase of 5,000 soles for transportation and snacks for work breaks and an undetermined amount to be used as follows: 50 percent to be used as a bonus for special courses, and the remaining 50 percent to be granted as loan. [as heard] The employees termed this increase ridiculous and announced the continuation and radicalization of the general strike.

WAR MINISTER DENIES POSSIBILITY OF ARMY COUP

PM130957 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 7 Mar 85 p 6

[Antonio Cano dispatch: "Army Will Respect People's Will, Peruvian Minister of War Asserts"]

[Text] Lima -- "Ideas are not imposed but explained." This maximum is inscribed in gilt letters on the facade of the Center of Advanced Military Studies in Lima's Chorrillos district, where the officers from among whom General Juan Velasco Alvarado's revolutionary movement emerged in 1968 were politically educated. According to Minister of War General Julian Julia, today's Peruvian Armed Forces guarantee their loyalty to that maxim and their respect for the people's will, expressed in the democratic elections, the first round of which will take place on 14 April.

"This electoral process is a great experience for all Peruvians -- the Army and civilians. We have experienced a series of crises, and we now expect full observance of our Constitution, including changes in leadership which will be determined by the elections. According to the Constitution, the Armed Forces must ensure that this electoral process takes place normally and that the Constitution is fully observed," Gen Julia stated.

Between 1968 and 1970, the Army implemented an original revolutionary blueprint under which radical changes in Peruvian society were attempted and a drastic agrarian reform was implemented, which, if it did not resolve the country's economic problems, did lay the foundations for surmounting an age-old imbalance in the rural areas.

Velasco Alvarado's mistake, according to the oldest Peruvian politician, American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] leader Luis Alberto Sanchez, was "that he tried to do everything immediately and without money."

Gen Julia, who is regarded as representing the majority in the Peruvian Army, asserted that "very little of that movement is left in the current Armed Forces. It was not the Armed Forces which ruled but a leadership of officers who sacrificed themeselves at a very high social cost."

Far from a socialist trend, Peruvian observers point toward the danger of a right-wing coup. That possibility is currently ruled out by all the political parties, but not by other independent sectors of public opinion, which cannot forget the historical rivalry between the Armed Forces and the party with the greatest chance at attaining power in July -- APRA.

"I believe that that time is now over," Gen Julia said. "Previous generations felt psychologically influenced by events which created a certain distance between the Armed Forces and APRA, but this has now been settled for quite a long time. Generations evolve, and today we are all looking in the same direction."

Gen Julia also rules out a military intervention if there is a victory for the United Left (a coalition comprising mostly Marxist-Leninist parties): "There is no chance of it. Rather, it would be a great experience to see what the country's course would be under a new helmsman. We all have expectations. The United Left is a group of parties which, although they have different beliefs, have common positions. It is possible that if the United Left wins, it will set its course by the Constitution, and we will remain the same as we would under and other political party. I assure you of this."

The minister of war is convinced that internal dissensions, which would cause a coup by a group of officers, will not occur in the Peruvian Armed Forces. "For some time the various commands have given priority to recovering our essence, which is our professionalism, and setting aside any political idea, political intervention, or partisanship. I believe that this has been achieved. Our officers and our subordinate personnel are funadmentally professional, devoted to their careers. They are aware of the political situation, and I trust all these personnel and am confident that there will be no problem. I am certain of it.

The Peruvian Army's prestige is currently is question because of its conduct in the struggle against the Shining Path, in which, according to various Peruvian and international bodies, the military have committed grave violations of human rights. Gen Julia believes that "a struggle cannot be waged in a lukewarm way." "When a task like this, in which we kill or are killed, is carried out uncompromisingly, sometimes, it is true and I admit it, innocent people die, but these are exceptional cases. Certain international bodies refer to missing people, but it is known, and even the press which sympathizes with these movements has said so, that it (Shining Path) is abducting people, who then add to the missing people attributed to us."

The minister of war denies that an "Argentinization" in the struggle against violence is occurring in Peru, and asserts that progress is being made in the struggle against the Shining Path, "not at the pace which might be desired, but progress is being made." "Its activity has decreased considerably, and it is possible that this will be brought under control within a year, at best," the minister said. In the meantime, he believes that "it would be hazardous" to withdraw the Army from the emergency zones.

SEPULVEDA ADDRESSES WAR COLLEGE, ENDS U.S. VISIT

Dismisses Domino Theory

FL141750 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1555 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda Amor has urged the United States and Nicaragua to resume the bilateral dialogue and added that any type of harassment or destabilizing action would not contribute to peace in the region. These remarks were included in a speech made last Monday at the National War College in Washington, and were published yesterday shortly after Sepulveda left for Brasilia to attend President Tancredo Neves' inauguration.

Sepulveda Amor also dismissed as simplistic and automatic the so-called domino theory in Central America and advocated pluralism and nonalignment in the region, stressing mutual respect as the fundamental factor in relations between Mexico and the United States. He also said the efforts of the Contadora Group are aimed at avoiding having the Central American conflict become an appendage to the East-West confrontation.

Last 13 March, Sepulveda ended a 3-day official visit to Washington. He met with his colleague George Shultz, the secretaries of the treasury, agriculture, and commerce, the White House chief adviser, Federal Reserve and international trade officials, congressmen, businessmen, and journalists.

During his stay in Washington, Sepulveda discussed the next Mexican-U.S. bilateral meeting and reaction stirred up here by the death of U.S. narcotics agent Enrique Camarena. The Contadora Group negotiations were also part of the agenda. Regarding Camarena's death, Sepulveda told U.S. authorities that a police incident, no matter how regrettable it may be, should not influence the broader bilateral relations.

NOTIMEX Analysis of Visit

FL150046 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1920 GMT 14 Mar 85

[By Jose Carreno]

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Despite the efforts of Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda to communicate moderation and seriousness to the government and press of the United States, his arguments fell on ears that were receptive only to demagoguery and patriotism.

On Wednesday, Sepulveda ended a 3-day visit during which he met with high-level officials, journalists, legislators, and businessmen in an attempt to communicate one basic message: Bilateral relations are too important to let one criminal case, regrettable as it might be, become a focal point.

But if anyone understood the message, he remained silent in the midst of a climate of chauvinism, which seeks only a target to relieve its frustrations. In the current state of mind in the United States, threats, be they communism, drug trafficking, pollution, are always foreign. The problems are imported.

And if the United States cannot learn who was responsible for the attack in Beirut over a year ago, in which 240 of its Marines died, and for the import, trade, and budget deficits that threaten its standard of living, the country must find someone to blame.

One of the scapegoats is Mexico. Mexico has become the target of demagogues, hungary for power and seeking political influence in a country where it is now suggested that drug addiction is caused by producers and traffickers -- preferably foreign.

Thus, Senator Paula Hawkins, who once was considered a "friend" of Mexico, and who now chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, announced that she would request the suspension of economic assistance to Mexico, which, by the way, is non-existent. She also proposed establishing a $100,000 reward for information leading to anyone responsible for the death of any U.S. narcotics agent. She said the reason for her request is lack of cooperation with U.S. anti-drugs efforts. The killings of members of the police and military of other nations while trying to prevent illegal drugs from reaching the United States are merely unimportant incidents.

Now, moreover, newspapers, which traditionally have been considered serious, are echoing negative themes about Mexico. THE NEW YORK TIMES, for example, in Thursday's edition, published a long article on problems in the Tijuana-San Diego border area, even though they are well on the way to being solved.

The report occupies almost as much space as another article on President Ronald Reagan's views on contacts with Mikhail Gorbachev, the new Soviet strongman, the only difference being that the article on Reagan appeared on the front page.

PPS ACCUSES U.S. OF DESTABILIZING CAMPAIGN

PA142302 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] The Popular Socialist Party, PPS, has termed the economic and political pressures exerted by the U.S. Government on our country, such as closing border posts, the U.S. news media propaganda campaign, and now those linked to the drug problem, part of a strategy to destabilize Mexico prior to the July elections.

The PPS accusations were made by Deputy Jose Lujan Gutierrez, a PPS federal district leader, who believes it imperative for the revolutionary and democratic forces to alert the people about the increasing U.S. pressure on Mexico.

Meanwhile, Manuel Romero Rendon, leader of the Union of Tourist Guides of Confederation of Mexican workers, said measures imposed by the U.S. Government to close some border posts are arbitrary. Because of this, the tourist guides have seen their income reduced, thereby seriously affecting their family's budget, Romero Rendon said.

The Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce said that "the Mexican-U.S. border problem can only be solved through dialogue."

Javier Ahumada Padilla, president of the National Confederation of Small Property Owners, said the U.S. Government's pressure along the border, "has not affected exporting for small farmers."

ARDITO BARLETTA ON IMPROVING ECONOMY, INDUSTRY

PA111704 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Mar 85 p 24

[Text] Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta delivered the closing address at the fourth industrial meeting yesterday with a call for a government-private sector dialogue that will help promote Panama's industry and exports.

During his speech before a large group of Panamanian industrial leaders at Panama City's Marriott Caesar Palace Hotel, Ardito Barletta asked Commerce and Industry Minister Jose Bernardo Cardenas, who was also present, to join with two Panamanian industrialists in a group to resolve differences and agree on common goals.

The president said that all the things that are being done are important to Panama and that the national debt is a challenge that must be met by investing in goods and services. He added that the government will do all that is within its power to achieve that goal. Ardito Barletta stated that work relations must be harmonious and congruent with the conclusions issued by the Panamanian Industrialists Union and government services need to be improved. He said that this objective will be pursued.

He stressed the importance of promoting exports as a means of reactivating the economy. After his speech Ardito Barletta held an impromptu press conference during which he said that there is no secret agreement with the IMF and that the country's fiscal policy is a product of necessity more than of outside pressure.

CUBAN LAWMAKERS VISIT TO LOBBY CAUSE

PA150116 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Panamanian legislator Omaira Correa has reported that members of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government are making efforts to join the Federation of Latin American Parliaments.

[Begin recording] The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the request by members of the Cuban legislature to support their efforts to join the Federation of Latin American Parliaments. The members of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, the president of the legislature, and the leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party bloc -- the legislature's majority party -- were present at the meeting with the Cuban lawmakers.

The decision to accept them must be made in June, when the Federation will hold a general assembly. The members of the Cuban Assembly came to Panama to promote their campaign drive or efforts to join that parliamentary group. We limited ourselves to listening to their request for support. However, it must be pointed out that the Federation of Latin American Parliaments does not accept as members legislators who have not been elected through political parties -- the guarantors of democracy. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEW PROTOCOL DIRECTOR -- Luis Arrieta Aleman has been appointed new director general of protocol and state ceremonies by decree signed by President Nicolas Ardito Barletta on 13 February. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Mar 85 pp 36, B 16 PA]

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT ORDERS ARREST OF EDEN PASTORA

PA151528 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1501 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Mar (EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has ordered the arrest of Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, "wherever he may be in Costa Rican territory." In statements to EXCELSIOR, a Mexican newspaper, Monge said that Pastora will be arrested if he is in Costa Rica because "if he is using this country for his military activities he is doing it illegally." During the interview, the Costa Rican president said that he is willing to hold bilateral discussions with Nicaragua on "matters pending" to maintain normal, respectful relations. President Monge told EXCELSIOR that some of his government's officials who collaborated with Pastora have been removed from office and that some of Commander Cero's men have been expelled from Costa Rica. Monge insisted that he is willing to personally talk with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in an attempt to achieve peace in Central America.

EL SALVADOR

FMLN GUERRILLAS BURN MAYOR'S OFFICE IN SAN CARLOS

PA140442 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 11 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] San Miguel, 11 Mar -- At 2130 last night, FMLN guerrillas occupied the town of San Carlos, Morazan Department, where they completely burned down the mayor's office. The guerrillas broke the locks to enter the building, piled up chairs, files, and papers in the main room, and then set the building on fire.

Before leaving, they told a group of people they had assembled that the FMLN will carry out its promise to burn a mayor's office every night and that in the next days it will burn others in Morazan Department, especially the mayor's offices in Jocoro and El Divisadero, and in other departments of the eastern part of the country.

With the destruction last night of the mayor's office in San Carlos, the guerrillas have destroyed seven [as published] mayors' offices in the eastern part of the country already: Yamabal, Ocicala, and San Carlos in Morazan Department; Yayantique and Yucuaiquin in La Union Department; Santa Elena and Alegria in Usulutan Department; and Tejutepeque in Cabanas Department.

They also have destroyed two stations of the National Administration for Telecommunications, ANTEL, in Guatajiagua and Ocicala, Morazan Department.

The same sources said that the mayors' offices destroyed in the eastern part of the country have been in towns unprotected by the Armed Forces, whose units have been participating in the "Torola-5" operation.

The guerrillas who burned the mayor's office in San Carlos told the people that the burning of mayors' offices with all their files and furniture is to prevent the electoral farce. They said that this action will continue and the results will soon be seen in different zones of the country.

Another report says that at midnight Saturday, 9 March, another FMLN unit occupied the school in San Jorge, San Miguel Department, where they broke into the classrooms, took the files and papers, which they set on fire in the school yard, and then left without further incident.

FMLN SAYS ARMY DESTROYED SAPO RIVER BRIDGE

PA141808 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Excerpt] In a ridiculous and senseless operation, the dictatorship's forces destroyed the bridge over the Sapo River in northern Morazan Department. Here is a report on this ridiculous operation conducted by the enemy Army:

At 1245 on Monday, 11 March, a 3d Infantry Brigade unit led by Lieutenant Colonel Miguel Mendez was flown into the area around the bridge over the Sapo River, located on the highway linking the towns of Arambala and (Guateca) to northern Morazan Department.

Five U.S.-made Huey helicopters were used to transport the enemy. Immediately after landing, the troops proceeded to destroy the bridge over the Sapo River. Afterward, they were evacuated by helicopter.

From the moment the enemy helicopters appeared over northern Morazan Department, guerrilla units and a Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade battalion moved toward the area near the Sapo River. As our forces were on their way to the area, a loud explosion was heard. Afterward, five Huey helicopters arrived to quickly evacuate the dictatorship's Army unit which had destroyed the bridge over the Sapo River. The helicopters indiscriminately strafed the residents of (Guateca) and nearby areas, seriously injuring the following civilian residents: Ventura Sicas, 20: Rene Argueta, 17; Adolfo Argueta, 18; and Miguel Portillo. Civilian residents from (Guateca) and nearby areas confirmed that the 3d Infantry Brigade troops led by Lt Col Mendez destroyed the bridge over the Sapo River.

HONDURAS

U.S. CONGRESSMEN EXERT PRESSURE ON RAMIREZ CASE

PA150107 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The case on compensatory payments to U.S. national Temistocles Ramirez will be transferred to the Honduran Attorney General's Office, National Agrarian Institute [INA] Executive Director Gustavo Alfaro has reported. He explained that the Honduran Government has notified the U.S. Government that the Ramirez case will be handled by the Attorney General's Office as of today. He added that Temistocles Ramirez has not officially sued for compensatory payments on improvements on his property, which he exploited behind the backs of the Honduran Government and people for more than 23 years. However, Alfaro observed that although Ramirez has not filed suit against the government, U.S. congressmen continue to pressure this government on Ramirez' behalf to have the matter taken up once again by the Honduran Congress.

The Honduran Government has repeatedly maintained that if it yields to U.S. pressure and agrees to review the case again, it will follow Honduran laws and base proceedings on the ruling to expropriate the lands that was issued in 1983, Alfaro emphasized. The Honduran Government is not refusing to make compensatory payment to Ramirez, the INA director said. What it has said, he clarified, is that it is not obligated to indemnify him on the value of the land, which is part of the heritage of the Republic, but on improvements to the property. Alfaro indicated that an appraisal of the property conducted by INA technical personnel in 1983 gave a figure of 4 million lempiras, while Ramirez is claiming $17 million.

EMBASSY DENIES CAPT CANALES NUNEZ IN MEXICO

PA141551 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Mar 85 p 10

[Text] San Pedro Sula -- The Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa denied that Honduran Police Captain Rafael Canales Nunez is in that country on a diplomatic status. The Honduran Human Rights Commission, CODEH, filed a protest note with the Mexican Embassy for the alleged recognition of Canales Nunez as military attache of the Honduran Embassy in Mexico.

Capt Canales Nunez is one of the members of the Honduran Army charged by CODEH as being responsible for the political crimes during the time General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez was chief of the Armed Forces. However, in reply to the CODEH protest note, Charge d'Affaires of the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa Raul Lopez Diaz denied that Canales Nunez has entered Mexico. According to Lopez Diaz, Capt Canales Nunez never asked for a visa to travel to Mexico either as a diplomat or tourist.

VILLAGE ATTACKED FROM NICARAGUAN TERRITORY

PA150029 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Radio reports received from the eastern part of the country announced that a Honduran village located next to the border with Nicaragua was attacked with mortar fire from Nicaraguan territory at noon on 12 March. One person was killed and two were wounded in the attack. The incident was confirmed by a Honduran military officier, who added that a military investigating committee was sent to the zone at noon yesterday to investigate. The incident took place in La Lodosa, a village in El Paraiso Department, located 4 km from the border with Nicaragua.

According to the radio reports, the attack was carried out by Sandinist soldiers from the other side of the border. The house of Honduran peasant Mariano Gonzalez was hit by the mortar fire, which killed Francisco Antonio Maldonado, who was from Esteli, Nicaragua, and wounded Hondurans Carlos Humberto Rodriguez and Juan Rafael Rodriguez, who were taken to a hosptial in Danli, 90 km from Tegucigalpa, where they are receiving medical treatment. The Honduran military officer said that no details were available because the investigating committee had not returned yet.

NICARAGUA

WHEELOCK MEETS YUGOSLAV EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER

PA150115 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Mar 85 p 5

[Text] Yesterday morning, Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform [Midinra], welcomed Mito Pejovski, Yugoslav cooperation minister [title as published] and member of the Federal Executive Council. He is accompanied by Ilija Marjanovic, president of the Yugoslav Bank for International Economic Cooperation, and Vera Busac, counselor to the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Trade. The objective of the visit of the senior Yugoslav official is to analyze the results of the cooperation and negotiation of new lines of credit between the two countries. The Midinra minister was accompanied by his deputy minister, Roberto Gutierrez and by Mayra Pasos, an official of the Foreign Cooperation Ministry.

MORE ON FRG DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

PA141438 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1805 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Managua, 13 Mar (DPA) -- FRG Deputy Foreign Minister Alois Mertes will meet tonight with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez to discuss relations between the two countries.

According to the itinerary for Mertes, who has been in Managua for 2 days, the meeting with Vice President Ramirez will be the last political talk before leaving tomorrow for San Salvador, the third leg of his trip through the Central American region. This morning Mertes held meetings with the deputy ministers of foreign trade and foreign cooperation, Humberto Solorzano and Cesar Arostegui, respectively. This afternoon he will meet with Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco. Yesterday, the visitor met with opposition political leaders, including Agustin Jarquin, president of the Social Christian Party, and members of the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights and the Independent Liberal Party.

Mertes was scheduled to meet with President Daniel Ortega; however Ortega's sudden visit to Moscow to attend the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko, Soviet head of state and CPSU leader, modified the schedule.

Before leaving for El Salvador, Mertes will hold a press conference on his visit to Nicaragua. Mertes' visit is important, especially after stating in Costa Rica that the Nicaraguan Government's initiatives for a political opening might be a "tactical move." It was officially stated that Mertes is visiting to explore possibilities for economic cooperation between the EEC and Central America, as well as to appraise the Nicaraguan problem. The West German Government withdrew aid to Nicaragua after Kohl assumed power following the loss of power by the Social Democratic Party.

RAMIREZ MEETS FRG'S MERTES, SFRY OFFICIAL

PA141443 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] FRG's Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Alois Mertes concludes his visit to Nicaragua today after having met with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado. During yesterday's meeting, Ramirez and Mertes discussed the present relationship between Nicaragua and the FRG, the Central American problem, and the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

Last night Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado met with FRG Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Alois Mertes and Mito Pejovski, member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. During the meeting with the FRG deputy minister, Ramirez Mercado commented on the aggression being experienced by Nicaragua, and reaffirmed the peace proposals stated by the revolutionary government in order to reach a political solution to the Central American conflict.

Meanwhile, during his meeting with Compancro Mito Pejovski, the Nicaraguan vice president discussed current economic relations between Nicaragau and Yugoslavia in hopes of broadening them through a new cooperation agreement. The two meetings, which were held last night at different times, took place at the Presidential House.

BULGARIA TO FINANCE NEW MICROWAVE SYSTEM

PA141329 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] The Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Service Institute and the Bulgarian communications company, Telekom VID, will soon begin to install a microwave system to improve communications with the Atlantic sector. The project which costs $4 million, will be financed by the Bulgarian Government. The new microwave system should be working on full capacity next year.

LABOR MINISTRY APPROVES NEW WAGE SCALE

PA141334 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] In view of the increase in the cost of living and the country's current economic and social situation as a result of imperialist aggression, the Labor Ministry has approved a new wage scale, effective 1 March, as part of the revolutionary government's policy to improve the income of urban and rural workers.

The wage scale corresponding to the 28 occupational groups for urban workers has been modified. The minimum wage for urban workers has been set at 3,000 cordobas per month, for workers in Group 1; and 600 additional cordobas for each successive group up to Group 28. The maximum salary for Group 28 was set at 20,400 cordobas.

For rural workers the minimum wage was set at 2,500 cordobas per month, for workers without specific duties; and at 2,800 cordobas per month, for workers who have specific duties.

OPPOSITION GROUPS FORM COORDINATING ORGANIZATION

PA121848 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] All Nicaraguan political, business, and labor groups in exile have become organized under the name Nicaraguan Opposition Coordination [CON], it was announced in San Jose this morning.

The opposition organization is made up of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, Social Christian Party, Social Democratic Movement, Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, Independent Liberal Party, Solidarity of Democratic Nicaraguan Workers, Union Committee of Nicaraguan Workers and Peasants in Exile, Committee of Democratic Workers, and the Nicaraguan Private Enterprise in Exile.

The CON fully endorses the document issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board that demanded a national dialogue in Managua. It also supports the statement issued by the Nicaraguan resistance movement in San Jose demanding a national dialogue.

As stated by CON spokesman (Paul Farach), the organization challenges the Managua regime -- on the basis of all arguments raised by the opposition within and without Nicaragua -- to solve the extremely serious crisis plaguing Nicaragua through dialogue. Otherwise, the Nicaraguan people will respond with force and struggle until they succeed in establishing a democratic regime amid peace and freedom.

In addition, the CON called on all Nicaraguans who are committed to their country's liberation to join the efforts to unite all Nicaraguan opposition groups.

The opposition organization also announced that it has sent a telegram to the Swedish institute, or Royal Swedish Academy, criticizing the actions of Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the 1980 Nobel peace laureate. According to the CON's telegram, Perez Esquivel shamefully dishonored such a high-level prize by adopting an unworthy attitude regarding the case of the violation of the right to asylum of Nicaraguan citizen Jose Manuel Urbina Lara.

INDIAN GROUP TERMS FSLN AUTONOMY PLAN 'MARXIST'

PA091614 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Manifesto issued by the Miskito Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity Southern Indigenous Creole Communities, Misurasata SICC; date and place not given]

[Text] Misurasata SICC, the vanguard organization along the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast has the unavoidable obligation of announcing to the world, once more, the true nature of its struggle and the just demands of its indigenous cause so that the honest sectors that are aware of the true Indian struggle in Latin America can clearly understand and thus further support the struggle of the Misurasata SICC Indians.

The FSLN, trying to confuse the international public, is talking about promoting a Marxist-Leninist-style autonomy to then justify its genocidal plan against our defenseless people and consolidate [words indistinct] saying that the struggle along the Atlantic coast is against the National Guard and not against an Indian people who are fighting for their true liberation.

Misurasata Sicc tells the international and national public that the FSLN is doing this to continue to deny us our rights. Because of its racist and totalitarian attitude, it is denying us our ancestral rights. It is using military force to subject our people and is accusing us of being counterrevolutionaries and members of the CIA in order to continue its anti-Indian plan for the country.

We have denounced the dirty maneuvers of the FSLN against our humble people many times. We cannot link the praiseworthy interests of our cause with those selfish interests of any group that is foreign to the Miskito reality. We fight to be proud, free, and able to enjoy our historical rights within the framework of a truly free, democratic, and revolutionary government in which our traditions are respected. We are a group with ethnic awareness. We are the heirs and promoters of our cultural values of our ancient Indian nations.

(?The new government) of national unity in Nicaragua must recognize, without any discrimination, the inalienable right of the Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, and Creoles to their own territory, which is located in the country's Atlantic region.

Today, the Indians of the world are involved in a struggle to recover their historical rights, which include their territory. Because of these just demands for their rights, the governments of all kinds of political ideologies in the world made the Indians the targets of curel massacre and extermination campaigns.

The heaviest burden of this Indian extermination process in Latin America is being suffered by the Misurasata Sicc at the hands of the racist, anti-Indian and neocolonialist government of the FSLN.

The children of Miskus do not sell themselves or surrender! Misurasata SICC is the Indian power.

[Signed] (Joaquin Suazo Jessis), general coordinator of Misurasata SICC

TEXT

RAUL CASTRO MEETS AFRICAN LEADERS IN MOSCOW

Meeting With Ethiopia's Mengistu

FL142318 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] In Moscow, Ethiopian Head of State Mengistu Haile-Mariam has received Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. The two leaders analyzed matters of common interest from several aspects on international problems, especially the situation in the Horn of Africa. They also discussed the development of bilateral relations between Cuban and Ethiopia during their meeting, which was characterized by its fraternal tone, which typical of the friendly ties between the two countries.

Meets With Angola's Dos Santos

FL142006 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola-Labor Party, has met in Moscow with Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba. The Angolan leader and the first vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers exchanged views on current international issues in a warm, fraternal atmosphere. They discussed in particular the recent events in southern Africa and aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries. Raul Castro and Dos Santos are in the USSR for the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko.

FLAVIO BRAVO MEETS WITH JAPANESE LEGISLATORS

FL150142 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the People's Government National Assembly, met today in Tokyo with the leaders of both houses of the Japanese Diet. During the meeting, it was agreed to have an exchange between the two country's legislatures and to work to strengthen world peace.

SEVERO AGUIRRE RECEIVES CZECHOSLOVAK MEDAL

FL120440 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] A commemorative medal on the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia has been bestowed on Severo Aguirre del Cristo, Central Committee member and vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The ambassador of the brother socialist country, Milo Vojta, underscored the significance of this anniversary for the Czech and Slovak people and Aguirre del Cristo's personal efforts in developing relations between Cuba and Czechoslovakia.

CONSTRUCTION COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR

FL131948 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] A protocol establishing direct cooperation between the construction ministries of Cuba and the USSR has been signed by Ministers Jose Lopez Moreno and Georgiy A. Karavayev. The ceremony, held in Havana, was chaired by Politburo member Osmani Ciefuegos, and Jaime Crombet, Central Committee Secretariat member.

CABRISAS RECEIVES NETHERLANDS OFFICIAL

FL081450 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1235 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] A delegation composed of representatives from 20 Netherlands commercial firms, headed by Mr (Dominique Dick), special counselor of the Netherlands state secretary of foreign trade, is visiting Cuba to broaden relations with Cuban foreign trade enterprises.

Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz met with Mr (Dick). They discussed the development of trade relations between the two countries and essential factors for their future development.

ANAP PLENUM DISCUSSES AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

FL141730 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The Seventh Plenum of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] National Committee has indicated that it favors finding solutions to fulfill the needs of the people, more agricultural and livestock products and greater The statement was made by Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate Politburo member and ANAP president. Ramirez said the Havana meeting stressed the importance of educating the masses on economic matters because, in order to solve current development problems, it is necessary to master the different areas of the economy.

He said the cooperative movement should be consolidated and that recruitment of women and youth should be stepped up in response to the increased needs of the work force and new production demands.

The Seventh Plenum of the ANAP National Committee also discussed the mountain regions' economic and social situation and called for the gradual solving of all problems.

BRIEFS

PLO AMBASSADOR -- Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State, has formally received Mr 'Imad Jadajah who presented his credentials as ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization in our country. [Excerpt] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Mar 85 FL]

NATIONS COULD LOSE MILLIONS WITH UNDP CHANGE

FL120420 Bridgetown CANA in English 1929 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 11, CANA -- A number of Caribbean countries including Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Barabados could lose millions of dollars worth of assistance during the next five years if the governing council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) accepts a proposal to change aid eligibility, THE NATION newspaper reported today. The paper said the recommendation to eliminate UNDP assistance to countries whose per capita income was in excess of U.S. 3,000 dollars was strongly backed by the United States and Britain. It said the proposal had evoked the ire of both Barbados and Jamaica. The former last year successfully fought off, for the time being, a similar World Bank plan to graduate it from development aid. Under the plan all countries with the stated per capita income would become net contributors to UNDP, meaning that they would have to reimburse the UNDP for watever aid they received.

The paper reported that Barbados Ambassador to the UN Harley Moseley told the council at a recent meeting that it was wrong for the UNDP to rely on per capital income figures and population size as a criteria to determine technical assistance. He told the UK agency that these indications can give a distorted view of a country's economic structure. It is precisely because of this fact that Barbados finds greater difficulties in accepting the idea of reimbursing the programme for assistance provided.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS 1985 BUDGET TO CONGRESS

FL081605 Bridgetown CANA in English 2338 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 7, CANA -- The Antigua-Barbuda Government today presented a 201-billion-dollar (one EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.) budget for the 1985 financial year, showing a projected deficit of nine million dollars. The package represented a 25-million-dollar increase over that for the 1984-84 financial year.

In his presentation to parliament, Finance Minister John St Luce said recurrent expenditure was projected at 138 million dollars and capital spending at 63 million. Revenue was put at 129 million dollars. Capital expenditure, St Luce said, would be financed by external agencies and a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

St Luce said the rate of inflation had been kept down to 1983 levels and the economy recorded modest growth in 1984. He did not give figures for either, but said Antigua and Barbuda was affected by the same problems that affect other Third World countries. These include expenditure outstripping revenue, high wage demands and the inability to service external debts satisfactorily, he said.

When the situation arises where the expenditures on consumption and investment are greater than income, then structural adjustment becomes necessary, St Luce said. Our government like many other countries will embark upon a structural adjustment programme, St Luce said. He said the programme may not be what some people expect but it will be one which the people can live with and which can ensure success.

We are aware of the tolerance level and can ill afford the malaise experienced by many of our Caricom partners. We recognize that it is very difficult for any structural adjustment when a country allows its problems to become critical as this requires rapid and large adjustments, he said.

The minister stated that Antigua and Barbuda did not have a dynamic private sector to create employment by substantial investment in the economy, so government had to take fiscal measures to provide employment and investment. Such fiscal measures will attempt to achieve the structural changes necessary for development of our country, bearing in mind our open economy, trade patterns and uniqueness of our monetary system, St Luce said.

16 Percent for Debt Serving

FL142246 Bridgetown CANA in English 1812 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 14, CANA -- Finance Minister John St Luce says 21 million dollars (one E. C. dollars: 37 cents U.S.) or nearly 16 per cent of the recurrent budget for the 1985 financial year will be devoted to servicing public debt. St. Luce did not say what was the size of the public debt but added that the allocation for this area was by far the largest individual slice of the 201-million-dollar budget which he presented on March 7.

He said the money would be used to repay loans related to facilities such a desalination plant, power plants, Coolidge Airport, Barbuda Development projects, hotel construction, and 13 acres of sugar cane estate lands. He said government was faced with a problem of having to repay loans for projects that were now non-functional. He said other projects were also not generating enough money to allocate some for debt servicing. This means that the government has to reduce the allocation of resources to other needed areas in order to at least make some payments from time to time on these debts, he added. The new budget represents a 25-million-dollar increase over the previous years.

The finance minister also called on government departments and agencies to control expenditures more rigidly. A chain is as strong as its weakest link and I am not satisfied with the level of cooperation which my ministry is getting from some ministries, departments, and statutory bodies that have been allocated funds, he added. St Luce said: Each government department and each statutory body has to understand that every effort must be made to reduce waste and inefficiency, avoid incurring unnecessary commitments and expenditure, and where applicable, collect the government's revenues. He said savings could be made in areas where there were unauthorized overseas calls, unnecessary overtime, and indiscriminate use of vehicles.

DOMINICA

$4.8 MILLION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH U.S.

FL131900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1527 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 13, CANA -- United States Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean Thomas Anderson and Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles have signed two grant agreements for a total of U.S. 4.8 million dollars in funding for rural electrification and small community development projects. Anderson said the agreement signified U.S. support for the efforts of the Charles government to upgrade the well-being of all Dominicans.

Also signing were the director of the United States Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) regional development office for the Caribbean, James Hotaway, and Cecil Shillingford, general manager of the Dominica Electricity Services Limited (Domlec). The bulk of the funds, 4.7 million dollars, will go to bring electricity to areas under a programme administered by Domlec. The money will finance the purchase and installation of two generators as well as materials required for high voltage transmission lines and low voltage distribution lines.

The new generators are intended to provide additional power for the entire national service network. The new transmission lines will expand the national network to incorporate Dominica's east coast. Once the distribution lines are in place, an additional 2,500 households on the east coast are to have access to electricity.

While providing street lights and power for medical clinics, schools, and other social services, the electrification programme should also enable Dominica to attract new domestic and foreign investment, and enhance the nation's ability to participate in the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), a U.S. Embassy statement said. The installation of the new power transmission and distribution lines is expected to be completed over the next two years with work beginning in about three months.

An additional 150,000 U.S. dollars was provided to the Government of Dominica to assist with 23 small community infrastructure projects to benefit 21 communities. Included are six road construction projects, five others related to community water systems or sanitation, six sports facilities, three pedestrian river crossings, two school improvements, and one project to improve docking facilities.

GRENADA

BLAIZE ASKS BUSH TO LET U.S. TROOPS STAY LONGER

PA142313 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] St George's, 14 Mar (AFP) -- Herbert Blaize, Grenada's prime minister, today officially asked U.S. Vice President George Bush to allow U.S. troops to stay in the island longer than anticipated. According to a recent U.S. official announcement, the troops, about 300, will leave the island between 12 April and 12 June.

During a meeting with journalists, Ben Jones, minister for external and legal affairs, said that no time limit had been set for the troops to stay on the island, but that an additional 2 years seemed "appropriate" to him.

Vice President Bush arrived in Grenada on Thursday morning from Moscow, where he attended Konstantin Chernenko's funeral. In the next few hours, Bush will travel to Brasilia to represent the United States at the inauguration of Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves.

After their intervention in Grenada on 25 October 1983 the U.S. military and those of the Eastern Caribbean Organization countries stayed on the island to ensure public order while the new St George's government organized its own Armed Forces.

Troop Withdrawal Plans Protested

FL150218 Bridgetown CANA in English 2308 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 14, CANA -- Thousands of Grenadians shouted No, No, as Prime Minister Herbert Blaize read a letter from President Reagan telling them of plans for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the island. Blaize read out the text of the letter at today's big welcoming ceremony for American Vice President George Bush who paid a nine-hour visit on his way to Brazil to attend the inauguration of President Tancredo Neves. The letter was brought by Bush who arrived here after a 14-hour flight from Moscow where he attended the funeral of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

In the letter, Reagan conveyed our strong commitment to Grenada's security and our support for your country's economic development. As you know, America's military personnel in Grenada will be departing during the next several months, Blaize quoted Reagan as saying, to groans of disapproval from the 6,000-strong crowd.

Bush later said that he was deeply touched by the feelings of the Grenadian people regarding the withdrawal of the troops and like Reagan pledged U.S. support to deal with any future attack on the island's security. About 250 American military personnel have been on peace-keeping duties here since the days following the October, 1983 U.S.-led invasion to topple a leftist junta that had seized power in a bloody coup killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The letter from Reagan also told Blaize that the expert training provided to your police and security forces (mainly from the British, U.S. and Canada), combined with your able political and economic leadership, will assure a safe and secure future for Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique. It is not easy to reorganize a government and a society that was previously burdened by Marxist ideology. The people of the United States recognize that fact. But he added: We are impressed with the strides that Grenada has made in the past 15 months. Please be assured that we will continue to assist you where we can in achieving the goal of a prosperous, democratically-free and stable country.

Blaize's U.S.-backed New National Party (NNP) won a general election last December to return the island to Westminister parliamentary democracy after four-and-a-half years of left-wing revolutionary rule.

JAMAICA

SEAGA EXPECTS 1984 TO SHOW ECONOMIC GROWTH

FL150224 Bridgetown CANA in English 1754 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 14 CANA -- The Jamaica economy is expected to show a 0.5 per cent growth for the last calendar year instead of the negative performance which had been forecast, according to Prime Minister Edward Seaga. Seaga also says the government was doing better than the target set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for reducing the budget deficit in the fiscal year closing at monthend.

There would also be a J14 million dollars reduction in the 151 million dollars the government was slashing from the J3.9 billion dollar budget it announced at the start of the fiscal year. Seaga spoke in parliament last night in debate on his supplementary estimates.

It had been forecast during the year that there would be a negative growth of one-and-a-half to two per cent in the course of the calendar year, said Seaga, who is also the finance minister. It appears now that the out-turn for the calendar year will not be a negative out-turn, but a positive rate of growth of half percent. He did not indicate whether the positive performance would have held over to the end of the fiscal year -- a three month difference and the time of the completion of a one-year stand-by agreement with the IMF.

PRIME MINISTER WARNS U.S. OF 'MIXED SIGNALS'

FL120356 Bridgetown CANA in English 2331 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Kingston, Jamaica, March 10, CANA -- Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga has warned the U.S. Congress against sending mixed and confused signals to potential investors in Caribbean Basin countries.

Seaga made the admonition last night as he opened a fuel-grade ethanol plant here which could turn into a white elephant if a restrictive bill tabled in the Senate last week is approved by the American legislature. In fact, Seaga contended, the bill, sponsored by Republican Senator Frank Dole, could have a chilling effect on future investments in Caribbean countries, undermining the aims of President Reagan's trade, aid, investment and tourism scheme, the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

The bill is aimed at the ethanol plant set up in Kingston, under a 6-million-dollar (U.S.) investment by the Tropicana Petroleum Company of California to make use of the duty free import provisions that the CBI provides for most exports from Central America and the Caribbean. The plant, to manufacture beverage grade ethanol into fuel grade ethanol, has received substantial tax concessions from the Jamaica Government, and Kingston has been promoting it as an industry that will eventually have major spinoffs for the local alcohol industry. Officials say that with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) sharply cutting back on the amount of lead permissible in petrol to a total ban, consumption of fuel grade ethanol is expected to rise this year from 75 million to 100 million gallons.

The Tropicana plant here was expected to produce 20 million gallons of this, but the company's plans soon ran into trouble when the firm Archer Daniel Midland (ADM) contested a U.S. Customs Service ruling that the manufacture of fuel grade ethanol from beverage grade alcohol met the legislative requirement for a substantial product transportation, thereby qualifying for CBI treatment. This was followed by Dole's bill which would put a 60-cent (U.S.) tariff on each gallon of ethanol imported into the U.S. and also declare that ethanol was not a CBI product.

It is understandable that a producer would take this action in self-defense, Seaga told a gathering of company officials and diplomats at the site of the plant which will be operated locally by the Shell Oil Company. What is not understandable is the action by the U.S. Congress to protect U.S. domestic producers from competition by imposing a duty. Seaga said that by laying down the CBI rules in legislation Washington had given investors confidence with which to proceed in the region. It is one thing for private parties to challenge such rules, but it is an entirely different matter for the very rules to be threatened with change because the U.S. producer cannot face the competition which results, he said.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE APPROVES BANK TAKEOVER BY TRINIDAD GROUP

FL081657 Bridgetown CANA in English 1657 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, March 8, CANA -- The St Vincent and the Grenadines House of Assembly has approved the takeover of the Royal Bank of Canada branch here by the Trinidad and Tobago-owned Caribbean Banking Corporation. The venture is a joint undertaking of the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd and Neal and Massey Holdings. The agreement for the takeover was signed here in November last year. The money involved in the deal which is effective from today has not been disclosed. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance James Mitchell, who piloted the bill through all its three stages in Parliament last evening, said neither the employees of Royal Bank nor its customers will be affected by the takeover. But new opposition leader Vincent Beache and the other three opposition members present at yesterday's sitting of the House argued that government should have taken over the Royal Bank through the eight-year-old state-owned National Commercial Bank (NCB), or should have given the Vincentian public the first option to do so. Beache said he could not understand the haste with which Mitchell was pushing the matter through Parliament.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ATTACKS GOVERNMENT

FL132026 Bridgetown CANA in English 1927 GMT 13 Mar 85

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 13, CANA -- A document prepared by the staff of the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC) has delivered a scathing attack on the government and in the process caused rifts in the Christian community here. Some churchmen calling themselves a group of concerned Christians passed a resolution rejecting the document as mischievous, misleading, and wicked, and aimed at bringing down the government. The meeting was attended by former Prime Minister Dr Ptolemy Reid, ministers of government, and representatives of the Hindu and Muslim faiths.

The rift in the community deepened yesterday when members of the group refused to leave a building on the outskirts of Georgetown where the annual general meeting of the 15-church GCC was to be held and had to be forcibly removed by the police. The council announced today that the meeting had been postponed.

The document said the Guyana Government's policies had plunged the country into economic and political crisis. It also accused the Peoples National Congress (PNC) of using fraud and repression to remain in power. The government has described it as unbalanced, one-sided, and constituting a political document.

The document is entitled "The Role of the Churches in the Search for a Solution to the National Crisis." It was circulated to member churches to stimulate discussion among the Christians in order to prepare a plan of action for the GCC for the next 12 months. The GCC Secretariat says it is a working paper prepared by the council staff and does not reflect official council views and opinions.

The document said the government's policy of nationalization on a wide scale has brought about a collapse of the productive sector and a decline in living standards to their current critical level, while public utilities, water, electricity, public transportation, postal services, telecommunications and sanitation have deteriorated to the point of being a major drawback to both production and decent living. It went on: On the question of meeting basic needs, the co-operative socialism (practised by the PNC) has also failed. However, the effects of the collapse are not equally felt by all sectors of the population, since a powerful minority, which has accumulated considerable wealth, has been able to insulate itself against the worst breakdowns of social services. Deaths from malnutrition and illnesses related to nutritional deficiencies have increased dramatically, and all of this has been accompanied by a drastic increase in crime and a steep rise in the level of corruption, graft, and nepotism in public life, the document claimed. It also referred to the doctrine of paramountcy of the PNC, commenting: Implementing the doctrine has required the maintenance of a large security apparatus and a preoccupation with security at all levels of the society. Thus in its essentials the doctrine of paramountcy can be reduced to the organisation of political power in such a way as to exclusively promote the interests of those in power.

The document said Guyanese were faced with a situation in which only two of the foundations of co-operative socialism had been attempted -- the creation of a state sector and the implementation of the paramountcy doctrine. It claimed: The first gave the ruling group control of economic power and the second, monopoly of political power, which system has generated a severe economic crisis, which in turn has given rise to a political crisis of equally severe dimensions. It accused the government of repression. Repression, it said, began as a means of ensuring that austerities introduced because of the economic decline did not provoke political protest.

The right to work was regularly violated by dismissal of workers critical of the state. The right to strike was undermined by introducing scab labour, and most recently in the labour amendment bill by virtually declaring all strikes to be illegal.

According to the document, a further stage of repression was the extension of controls and harassment to churches and other civic groups. This took the form of selectively putting pressure on individual churches and churchmen who voiced their dissent at the trend the society was taking, the document said. Any initiative which sought to make people independent of the power of the ruling group attracted harassment from that quarter.

The document claimed that the final stage of the process of repression was the restructuring of the Constitution by the referendum in 1978 and the introduction of the new Constitution in October 1980. These changes gave the force of law to the ruling party's determination to remain in power since fraud alone had been inadequate to achieve this, it claimed.

The concerned Christians brushed aside the document as incorrect, tendentious, and intellectually dishonest. The rejection came at a well-attended meeting last Sunday during which some members of the council claimed they had not seen the document. A resolution adopted by the meeting read: While the working paper said the objective was to obtain the views of all Christians, the group of concerned Christians finds the true objective for the issue of the working paper is to bring down the government of the People's National Congress, and this objective is abhorrent to all true Christians in Guyana, and is not representative of the views of members of the churches in Guyana. The group urged the GCC to disassociate itself from political flirtations with those who seek to subvert and destabilise our dear land of Guyana.

One member church of the 14-member council which groups the major denominations, today denied any involvement in the preparation of, or endorsement of the paper. The A.M.E. Church headed by presiding elder Hewley Hinds said it is our view that the paper reflects anti-government sentiments and is diametrically opposed to our views. We have enjoyed a long and healthy relationship with the People's National Congress government and wish to make it abundantly clear that the A.M.E. will not join in or outside of the church which seeks in any way to destabilise or undermine the said PNC government, the statement said. Some other members of the council have privately expressed their reservations about the document, but there is also some measure of support.

BROADCASTING CORPORATION CHIEF REMOVED FROM POST

FL142150 Bridgetown CANA in English 2125 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 14, CANA -- General Manager of the state-owned Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) Terrence Holder has been removed from his post, it has been confirmed here.

As from February 28, you are relieved of the post of general manager of the GBC, a letter from the executive chairman of the information and communications group of the Guyana State Corporation (Guystac), Lambert Philadelphia, told Holder.

A government spokesman said Holder, who has been in broadcasting for 25 years, will, however, remain attached to the Ministry of Information in an advisory capacity.

Government sources said that Guystac has not been happy with the performance of the GBC which has an operational deficit of nearly G1 million dollars (one G dollar: 22 US cents)